

Representative Rachel Keshel

District 17

Legislative Biography



AZ Rep. Rachel Keshel is a Representative in the Arizona State Legislature who represents the 17th district and received 33.4% of the vote in her last election. She is the Ranking Member of the Federal Relations committee, and a member of the Regulatory Affairs, Elections, and Land, Agriculture and Rural Affairs committees.

She works most frequently on Law (82 bills), Crime and Law Enforcement (55 bills), Education (33 bills), Economics and Public Finance (33 bills), and Health (24 bills). She has sponsored 28 bills in her last two year(s) in office, voting with her party 83.7% of the time, getting 67.86% of her bills out of committee, and 7.14% of her sponsored bills enacted.

Rep. Keshel most frequently works on legislation with Alexander Kolodin (R-AZ-3) (86 bills), Laurin Hendrix (R-AZ-14) (61 bills), and David Marshall (R-AZ-7) (60 bills). She most frequently votes with Alexander Kolodin (R-AZ-3) (86.8%), Joseph Chaplik (R-AZ-3) (86.72%), and David Marshall (R-AZ-7) (85.81%).

Before entering politics, Rep. Keshel was involved in education.

About

Assumed Office - 2022

Next Election - 2026

Residence - Tucson, AZ

Term - 2nd term

Previous Experience

Former Business Executive, UPS

Former Teacher and Director, Pre-School

[Quorum Biography, [Accessed 3/1/2025](#)]

Undermining American Democracy

Activity	Description	Category	Role
HB 2319	"Transparency in elections"	Voter Suppression	Co-sponsored and Voted Yes
SB 1011	Makes municipal elections partisan	Voter Suppression	Voted Yes
HB 2415	Easier removal from voter lists	Voter Suppression	Co-sponsored and Voted Yes
SB 1005	Eliminates penalties for parents suing teachers over curriculum and losing	Anti-First Amendment	Voted Yes
SB 1021	Attorney General is required to defend all bills passed by legislature unless granted permission by legislature	Anti-First Amendment	Voted Yes
SB 1305	Ban on critical race theory	Culture War	Voted Yes
SB 1001	Pronoun bill	Culture War	Voted Yes
SB 1040	Anti-trans bathroom bill	Culture War	Voted Yes

Other

Keshel claimed that Gov. Hobbs is a "dictator" who "stole" the election and isn't "legitimate."

In January 2023, as Gov. Katie Hobbs took office, Keshel tweeted, "I will NOT move on like everything is o.k. I will NOT pretend like Fake Katie Hobbs is the legitimate governor of AZ. I will NOT standby [sic] while my favorite state is stolen by radical leftists. I will NOT allow this election to be stolen. #decertifynow." The tweet supported Republican candidate Kari Lake, who falsely claimed that she had lost to Hobbs because of fraud. Keshel promoted misinformation that 42 percent of ballots weren't counted. She called to "decertify" the election, even though she won her seat in the election. By refusing to recognize the winner of the election, Keshel violated her oath of office, election law expert Tom Ryan said. Keshel was among a handful of Republicans who walked out of Hobbs's address to a joint session of the legislature. [Phoenix New Times, [1/12/2023](#)]

Keshel was described as a "domestic threat" for her refusal to accept the results of democratically decided elections.

Arizona State Representative Rachel Keshel, then-Jones, who took office in January 2023, was labeled a "domestic threat" by attorney and election law expert Tom Ryan due to her refusal to accept the outcome of the 2022 gubernatorial election. Jones publicly declared that she would not acknowledge Katie Hobbs as the legitimate governor of Arizona and called for decertifying the election results. According to the Phoenix New Times, "Here's a state rep who is already in violation of her oath of office," he said. "If somebody gets more votes than somebody else, that person is the governor, period. We have domestic enemies here. People who refuse to accept the outcome of elections are domestic threats." [The Phoenix New-Times, [1/12/2023](#)]

Keshel ended public testimony on legislation and incorrectly applied the rules of her committee to silence critics. Representative Rachel Keshel, then-Jones, incorrectly accused a lobbyist of violating committee testimony rules and forced the individual to stop. According to the Copper Courier, “Rep. Rachel Jones, R-Tucson, ended the public comment of Hugo Polanco, a lobbyist representing Living United for Change in Arizona, after he stated House Bill 2748 was racist in nature. Jones accused Polanco of impugning, or verbally attacking, a legislator, which she claimed was against the rules of the committee. Polanco pointed out, correctly, that the rule only applies to legislators talking about each other, and not members of the public, but Jones ended his testimony anyway.” [The Copper Courier, [2/14/2024](#)]

Keshel sponsored a measure to declare Donald Trump the winner of Arizona’s 2024 presidential election, regardless of the vote. In 2024, Keshel introduced [HCR2055](#), which would award Arizona’s 11 presidential electoral votes to Donald Trump, months before voters go to the polls in November, and invalidate the popular vote. Keshel’s resolution stated that the appointment of Trump electors would “offset the removal” of Trump from the Colorado and Maine ballots. “This resolution basically says that your Arizona Legislature, according to the U.S. Constitution, has full plenary authority over presidential elections,” she said during a hearing on her bill. Keshel’s scheme drew skepticism even from fellow Freedom Caucus members. Rep. Alexander Kolodin (R-Scottsdale) asked, “Wouldn’t we be guilty of exactly what we accuse the other side of doing, stealing the election?” The House Municipal Affairs and Elections Committee tabled the resolution. [The Arizona Republic, [2/15/2024](#)]

Keshel sought court intervention to block an executive order protecting LGBTQ workers from discrimination. In 2023, Keshel and other members of the Arizona Freedom Caucus held a news conference to announce plans for a lawsuit against Gov. Katie Hobbs, alleging that Hobbs’s executive order reinforcing nondiscrimination laws in state agencies protecting LGBTQ workers is unconstitutional. The executive order was similar to those issued by Republican governors, but caucus members claimed that didn’t matter and that Hobbs was attempting to usurp legislative power. [AZ Mirror, [1/10/2023](#)]

After a Democrat won a seat in her district, Rachel Keshel called on the Attorney General to probe the Pima recorder over the 2024 election. Following a Democratic victory in her district, Keshel alleged a coordinated effort to rig the election and called on the Arizona Attorney General to investigate the Pima County Recorder’s office. According to the Arizona Mirror, she “amplified unfounded claims that election officials were trying to rig the election through the use of early ballots after a former Pima County resident. Keshel tweeted on Oct. 20 that she believed the episode was evidence of a scheme that involved workers at both the USPS and the Pima County Recorder’s Office using vote-by-mail ballots to rig the election. ‘Apparently, they are using absentee ballots that belong to voters who have moved,’ Keshel wrote. ‘There is obviously a very well-run plan to have someone at the post office notify someone at the recorder’s office that the change of address has occurred and the ballot is available to immediately be illegally cast.’ Keshel, who did not respond to a request for comment from the Tucson Sentinel, has previously made numerous unfounded allegations that Arizona elections are rigged to justify various legislative proposals to restrict voting rights.” [Arizona Mirror, [12/9/2024](#)]

Keshel sponsored anti-trans legislation restricting Arizonans from amending their birth certificates. The Arizona House of Representatives approved House Bill 2438, prohibiting transgender residents from changing the gender marker on their birth certificates. According to the Arizona Mirror, “Rep. Rachel Keshel, the Tucson Republican and member of the far-right Arizona Freedom Caucus who sponsored the bill, claimed that its purpose was only to bring the state’s birth certificate law in line with the U.S. Constitution and to protect “the integrity and accuracy of vital records.” House Bill 2438 passed the House on Feb. 19 by a vote of 33-26 — only Republicans supported it — and now heads to the Arizona Senate for consideration. The bill is likely to pass through the Republican-controlled Senate but will almost certainly be vetoed by Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs, who has promised to block all anti-transgender proposals that make it to her desk. [Arizona Mirror, [2/20/2025](#)]

Keshel proposed a massive shift of the tax burden to homeowners with mortgages and reverse mortgages and admitted she didn’t know what the impact would be. In 2023, Keshel sponsored [HB2315](#), which would have eliminated property taxes for people who had fully paid for their homes. “It’s awful that you’re charged taxes on something you own,” she said. Property taxes fund local governments, including police departments and schools. If enacted, the proposal would likely have led to a significant property tax hike for homeowners with mortgages or those (mostly seniors) with reverse mortgages to make up the lost revenue. Keshel acknowledged that she didn’t know what the increase would be. She also admitted she hadn’t considered that homeowners who don’t pay property taxes would still have the power to vote to impose higher property taxes on everyone else. She also admitted she didn’t like that, under her proposal, wealthy “Californians” could buy Arizona houses outright and avoid paying any property taxes. The bill died in committee. [Arizona Capitol Times, [1/17/2023](#)]

Keshel opposed allowing Maricopa County voters to decide whether to extend a local transportation sales tax because efforts to improve air quality reminded her of the Green New Deal. In 2023, Keshel blasted fellow Republicans for passing a bill allowing Maricopa County residents to vote on whether to extend Proposition 400, a local sales tax to fund transportation projects. Keshel and other Freedom Caucus members said the plan wastes tax money by funding public transit and suggested it was part of a nefarious plan to implement the Green New Deal and trap people in small geographic areas. Keshel referenced the idea of “15-minute cities,” in which urban areas are developed so that necessities are available within a 15-minute walk, as “about controlling the people.” Keshel said, “And then they have air quality measures in there. So, all of this lingo just screams Green New Deal. And we all know that the Green New Deal stuff also includes 15-minute cities. Now, all of this is about controlling the people and why we have Republicans, you know, compromising in the 11th hour on this and making it more, just easier to implement the Green New Deal. I’m dumbfounded by it.” [Tucson Sentinel, [8/14/2023](#)]

Keshel is a far-right culture war extremist opposed to any compromise with Democrats. Keshel said she decided to run for office because she “could no longer sit by and let the Socialist Democrats in Phoenix ruin her great state.” She calls herself an “Authentic Conservative Fighter” [sic] and prioritizes “fighting the woke agenda,” “fighting for the Unborn” [sic], and “defending the 2nd Amendment.” She has also emphasized backing “medical freedom” (i.e., allowing doctors to

promote misinformation and prescribe unproven remedies for COVID-19 and other afflictions) and opposing vaccine mandates. She has excoriated fellow Republicans for being open to compromise with Democrats to pass legislation in the narrowly-divided legislature. “Let’s go together as a Republican legislature, and let’s figure out how to make the best for the people, and not compromise with the Democrats necessarily,” Keshel said. She said Republicans had lost seats because “there were too many legislators willing to [compromise.]” [Rachel Keshel for State House, Accessed [2/22/2024](#); Tucson Sentinel, [8/14/2023](#)]

Keshel co-sponsored legislation to make illegally crossing the border a state crime, copying a controversial Texas law. HB 2748, the Arizona Invasion Act, would make it a state crime for anyone to enter the United States from any foreign nation other than at a port of entry. As this is already a federal crime, it would authorize local or state police to enforce the law. The bill is modeled after a Texas law the U.S. Department of Justice determined unconstitutional. According to KJZZ, “The Texas law is similar to Arizona's own infamous 2010 immigration policy, SB 1070. Key provisions of that law were thrown out by the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled that Arizona has no right to enforce federal immigration laws.” These cruel immigration bills are intended to intimidate and harm the vulnerable. HB 2748 is currently moving through the legislature. [[AZ HB 2748](#), Committee Report: Rules, amended constitutional and in proper form, 5-3-0-1-0-0, 2/19/2024; KAWC, [1/24/2024](#); KJZZ, [2/13/2024](#)]