

Senator Shawnna Bolick

District 2

Legislative Biography



AZ Sen. Shawnna Bolick is a Senator in the Arizona State Legislature who represents the 2nd district and received 50.8% of the vote in her last election. She is the Chair of the Senate Ethics and Regulatory Affairs and Government Efficiency committees, and a member of the Finance and Judiciary committees.

She works most frequently on Crime and Law Enforcement (158 bills), Law (139 bills), Education (76 bills), Health (60 bills), and Economics and Public Finance (59 bills). She has sponsored 130 bills in her last six year(s) in office, voting with her party 92.9% of the time, getting 72.31% of her bills out of committee, and 23.08% of her sponsored bills enacted.

Sen. Bolick most frequently works on legislation with Walter Blackman (R-AZ-7) (145 bills), Frank Carroll (R-AZ-28) (137 bills), and Leo Biasiucci (R-AZ-30) (131 bills). She most frequently votes with Mark Finchem (R-AZ-1) (95.43%), Timothy Dunn (R-AZ-25) (95.11%), and Hildy Angius (R-AZ-30) (94.79%).

Before entering politics, Sen. Bolick was involved in education. She received her undergraduate degree from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and a degree from Carnegie Mellon University (PA).

About

Assumed Office - 2023

Next Election - 2026

Residence - Pittsburg, PA

Term - 2nd term

Previous Experience

Arizona House of Representatives (Arizona Legislature) 2019-2023

Member- BASIS Scottsdale School Board

Former Program Director- Paradise Valley Republican Women's Club

Member- Syracuse University Alumni Club of Arizona (SUACA);

Member- Children's Advocacy Center

Member- Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) at La Casa de Cristo

Member- Dodie Londen Excellence in Public Service Series Program

Member- Benchmark Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Member- BASIS Phoenix Boosters

Member- Moms Offering Moms Support – MOMs Club International

Director of Business Development- Arizona School Choice Trust

Former Wireless Public Safety Technology Consultant- Booz Allen Hamilton

Former employee- The Heritage Foundation

[Quorum Biography, [Accessed 3/5/2025](#)]

Undermining American Democracy

Activity	Description	Category	Role
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, Voted Yes
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
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	Co-sponsored, Voted Yes
HCR 2031	Preempts local wage and benefit ordinances	Anti-Labor	Voted Yes
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	Co-sponsored, 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	Co-sponsored, Voted Yes

Disinformation

Big Lie

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

May 12th, 2021 - *The Left screams about our education becoming privatized. The real crime taking place in America is the privatization of our election systems. The hallmark of a supposedly democratic process turned over to a private entity- 1 where our elections officials don't have access. <https://t.co/1PJRY4qs1r> Rasmussen Reports (@Rasmussen_Poll): 2020 Election Integrity: Arizona - Senate Forensic Audit - New & Big - County Board of Elections Claims They Have No Administrative Password Access To Their Own Voting Machines, Only Dominion Voting Systems Does - <https://t.co/rtDWOnQuoD> <https://t.co/wXqG2JKLZh>*

Black Lives Matter

Representative Shownna Bolick shared social media posts designed to undermine and delegitimize the movement for racial justice in the United States. Here is an example:

May 20th, 2021 - *You mean instead of getting participation trophies for just showing up and not putting in the hard work? Or joining up with #Antifa to burn down our cities or with BLM to tear down historical monuments? You raised great kids. You should be proud! 🇺🇸😄💕👏 <https://t.co/ieYOhQSFcw>*
Quang Nguyen (@QuangNguyenAZ): This is what young people should be doing for our great nation... Like waking up early to do soldier stuff, not the woke BS. Change my mind. <https://t.co/D9n8UUONy1>

Critical Race Theory

Here are examples of Representative Shownna Bolick's social media posts misrepresenting Critical Race Theory to distort and, ultimately, silence arguments for racial justice & equality in the United States:

July 4th, 2021 - *RT @realchrisrufo: The union has also approved funding for "increasing the implementation" of CRT in K-12 curricula and for attacking conservative groups who oppose CRT indoctrination. The teachers union has made critical race theory its #1 priority--and want to implement it nationwide. <https://t.co/QaeTBouTf2>*

July 4th, 2021 - *RT @realchrisrufo: The NEA represents 3 million public school employees in all 50 states. They have a \$350 million annual budget and an army of operatives in 14,000 local communities. They have now declared war on parents who oppose critical race theory--and parents must fight back!*

June 23rd, 2021 - *It is the summer of 2021. Americans need to get out of covid-hibernation and wake up. The establishment want our kids hooked on sexuality & drugs while turning them into communists to control them. TG parents are awake & pushing back against critical race*

theory in our schools. Daily Caller (@DailyCaller): Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis announces he is signing a bill requiring high school students to learn about the "evils of communism and totalitarian ideologies." The bill also creates a library that allows students to learn about "real patriots" who escaped communism and socialism. <https://t.co/x9cvBv5jXK>

QAnon

Here is an example of Representative Shannna Bolick's social media posts spreading dangerous QAnon conspiracy theories:

May 8th, 2022 - This guy from WA always weigh in on AZ politics. I will always side with the parents. When my kids are inside a public school I do not lose my parental rights. You all should be absolutely ashamed of the grooming you have been caught doing as young as pre-K. #theyearoftheparent

Nathan Schneider (@SchneiderLD35): @Bolick4Arizona@JoeBiden Shame on you for supporting racial segregation, LGBTQ discrimination, and the destruction of our public schools. You're no friend of teachers and schools. You're part of the problem.

Other

Bolick co-sponsored one of the most severe anti-abortion legislation in the country, which required prosecutors to charge women who opted to end their pregnancies and their physicians with murder. House Bill 2650 was introduced with language that gave county attorneys the power to prosecute "homicide by abortion," regardless of conflicting federal laws or court decisions. According to the Arizona Republic, "The legislation, which expands the definition of a 'person' to include 'an unborn child in the womb at any stage of development,' would allow both the state attorney general and county attorneys to prosecute 'homicide by abortion.' It removes existing protections for 'an unborn child's mother' as well as 'the person ... performing an abortion' with the mother's consent. The Arizona bill leaves open the possibility of first-degree murder charges — which can result in the death penalty or a lifetime sentence — and does not protect mothers from prosecution." The bill eventually stalled out in committee and was not passed by the legislature. [The Arizona Republic, [1/22/2021](#); HB 2650, [Accessed 10/18/2021](#)]

Bolick co-sponsored Senate Bill 1584, a measure outlawing the consideration of diversity in public-sector hiring. The bill prohibits using race, ethnicity, sex, or national origin in hiring decisions, pushing for color-blind and race-neutral policies. By eliminating race-conscious hiring, SB 1584 undermines efforts to address systemic discrimination and limits opportunities for underrepresented communities within state and local government. The legislation narrowly defines "merit" as qualifications, experience, and objective criteria, effectively disregarding the importance of diversity and inclusion in creating a representative public workforce. Additionally, SB 1584 allows individuals to seek damages and attorney fees for violations, which could lead to costly legal challenges against any efforts to diversify public-sector hiring. The bill passed the Senate on March 4, 2025, and is now being considered in the House. [AZ [S.B. 1584](#)]

Bolick consistently promotes election misinformation. Shawnna Bolick told the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors that she had moved on from the 2020 presidential election and the 2022 Arizona gubernatorial and midterm elections, but a review of her social media activity shows she continues to share election misinformation. Her Twitter feed reveals a continued engagement with election misinformation, including retweets of conspiracy theorists and unverified claims about election integrity. Notably, Bolick has repeatedly referred to the 2020 election as "rigged" and shared posts calling for the prosecution of Maricopa County officials. She has also criticized the handling of elections by local authorities and aligned herself with groups like True the Vote, known for promoting debunked theories around voter fraud. [AZ Mirror, [07/21/2023](#) ; AZ [S.B. 1271](#)]

Bolick has a history of pushing restrictive voting measures under the guise of election integrity. In a 2020 op-ed for the Arizona Republic, she warned that all-mail voting would undermine election integrity, contributing to baseless claims about voter fraud. Bolick furthered these claims by sponsoring HB 2722 in 2021. This bill sought to restrict emergency voting to situations involving war, civil unrest, or natural disasters, undermining access to voting during other critical times of need. It also proposed allowing voters to videotape and photograph election workers inside polling places—a provision that would expose election staff to harassment and intimidation, despite such actions being prohibited by current law. In 2022, Bolick sponsored HB 2602, which mirrored her previous proposal by seeking to limit emergency voting centers to specific circumstances like war, civil unrest, or natural disasters. Most recently, Bolick co-sponsored S.B.1011, which eliminates emergency voting centers and removes the provision for emergency voting between the Friday and Monday before election day. These bills exemplify her ongoing effort to restrict voting access, especially in times when people may be most vulnerable or need flexible voting options. [AZ Mirror, [04/16/2020](#) ; [05/23/2022](#) ; [02/02/2021](#)]

Bolick has repeatedly supported efforts to eliminate judicial retention elections and shield her husband, Arizona Supreme Court Justice Clint Bolick, from voter accountability. She backed both Proposition 137 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 1044, measures that would grant lifetime appointments to state judges and strip voters of their ability to remove justices. Justice Bolick had recently joined a ruling to uphold an 1864 abortion ban, sparking efforts to unseat him. By voting in favor of these measures, Shawnna Bolick helped advance Republican efforts to insulate conservative control over the state Supreme Court and protect her spouse from electoral consequences. Republicans placed both measures on the November ballot to eliminate retention elections for judges, ensuring conservative control over the state Supreme Court by ending voter oversight. By voting in favor of these proposals, Shawnna Bolick helped advance efforts to insulate her spouse from electoral consequences and weaken judicial accountability. If either had passed, judicial elections—and future accountability—would have been wiped out entirely. The measures were overwhelmingly rejected by voters. [AZ Mirror, [06/12/2024](#); [11/30/2024](#)]

Bolick co-sponsored Senate Bill 1443, which undermines government oversight by strengthening parental rights to an extreme, opening the door for excessive legal challenges against public institutions. SB 1443 grants parents broad control over their children's education, health care, and mental health decisions while allowing them to seek compensatory damages

starting at \$2,500 for violations of these rights. While the bill claims to protect parental rights, it places strict limitations on government agencies by preventing interference with these rights unless a compelling government interest is demonstrated, leading to potential legal conflicts and disruptions in public services. By allowing parents to directly challenge the government on a wide range of issues, including access to children's health and education records, the bill could create a legal minefield for public institutions and potentially divert resources from essential services. This legislation could have a far-reaching impact on how state and local agencies handle children's welfare, creating a new avenue for lawsuits that could cripple public systems. SB 1443 passed the Senate and is now under consideration in the House. [AZ [S.B. 1443](#)]

Bolick co-sponsored Senate Bill 1586, a bill that imposes heavy legal risks on healthcare providers, particularly those offering gender transition procedures to minors. The bill holds healthcare professionals personally liable for all costs associated with detransition procedures that a minor might pursue within 25 years, opening the door for expensive lawsuits that could burden providers. SB 1586 also allows minors or their legal guardians to sue for damages—including compensatory and punitive damages—for physical, psychological, emotional, or physiological harm caused by gender transition procedures or their aftereffects, with no time limitations. This provision creates a chilling effect on healthcare providers, who may now face costly litigation even years after treatment. The bill prohibits liability waivers, making it virtually impossible for healthcare providers to protect themselves through contracts, leaving them vulnerable to lawsuits for any perceived injuries resulting from transition or detransition procedures. For labor unions, this bill represents a significant threat to healthcare workers' stability and professional security, introducing undue financial burdens and legal exposure that could affect how gender-related care is delivered across the state. SB 1586 passed the Senate and is now under consideration in the House. [AZ [S.B. 1586](#)]

Bolick supported HB 2735, a bill weakening faculty participation in university governance at Arizona's public universities. The legislation replaces faculty's established role in decision-making with a vague "consult" role, effectively stripping them of meaningful influence over governance, academic, and personnel decisions. Despite no clear connection between faculty governance and the University of Arizona's financial issues—the supposed impetus for the bill—Bolick and other Republicans voted in favor of shifting power away from faculty and toward university presidents and state regents. During an interview, the bill's sponsor mentions that University of Arizona faculty members "took control" of the university and that "the most left of the left" are "grabbing and clinging to power." Bolick's support of HB 2735 aligns with a nationwide effort to erode faculty authority, especially in relation to progressive educators. [Arizona Luminaria, [06/14/2024](#) ; Inside Higher Ed, [03/25/2024](#)]

Bolick continues to prioritize partisan agendas, even at the expense of providing objective and accurate information to voters. She has been a strong advocate for inserting politically charged language into official voter materials, including pushing for the phrase "unborn human being" in the legal summary of the Arizona Abortion Access Act. This phrase was criticized by a trial court judge for being "packed with emotional and partisan meaning," which violated Arizona law

that requires impartial language in voter materials. Despite this ruling, Bolick and her colleagues appealed, seeking to preserve the controversial phrase. This challenge highlighted Bolick's willingness to prioritize partisan narratives over the need for impartiality, raising concerns about transparency and fairness in the voting process. [AZ Mirror, [08/01/2024](#)]

Bolick is a vocal advocate for school choice and sponsored an amendment to HB 2898, expanding Arizona's Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESA) to divert public school funds to private and religious schools. The amendment significantly broadened eligibility for ESAs, allowing more families to receive taxpayer-funded vouchers that can be used for private school tuition, homeschooling expenses, and other educational costs. This policy weakens Arizona's public school system by reallocating crucial funding from already underfunded district schools, disproportionately impacting low-income and rural students who rely on public education. The amendment failed after three Republicans joined Democrats to vote against it. She has also been a strong advocate of school choice on her social media, calling on Senators Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ) and Mark Kelly (D-AZ) to use their votes to protect charter schools around the nation from the Biden administration's overreach. "Will [Sinema] & [Kelly] stand with nearly 220K AZ public charter school kids and countless more families who support [school choice]? The teacher unions are using every tactic to drive a stake through [school choice]," tweeted Bolick. [AZ Mirror, [06/26/2021](#) ; The Tennessee Star , [12/14/2022](#)]

Bolick sponsored House Bill 2720, allowing state lawmakers to overturn presidential election results with a simple majority vote at any time before inauguration. The bill also sought to make every ballot a public record and bar county supervisors from holding office for 10 years if a ballot-counting live feed was interrupted, punishing officials for circumstances beyond their control, such as power outages. While Bolick claimed the bill aimed to make elections more bipartisan, others saw it as a blatant attempt to undermine democracy and sow doubt about election outcomes. Her sponsorship of the bill came amid revelations that Ginni Thomas, wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, had contacted Bolick after the 2020 election, urging her to help overturn Joe Biden's victory in Arizona. Bolick's close ties to the Thomas family—her husband, Arizona Supreme Court Justice Clint Bolick, is a longtime friend of Clarence Thomas—raised further concerns about her role in election-related efforts. Bolick also served as the chair of an elections-focused working group formed by the American Legislative Exchange Council, an organization known for drafting model legislation with a conservative bent, that later partnered with prominent GOP attorneys and discussed ways for lawmakers to "question the validity of an election," including emailing secretaries of state about their doubts. Bolick later ran for Arizona Secretary of State, a position responsible for certifying election results, intensifying fears about her commitment to upholding free and fair elections. [AZ Mirror, [05/20/2022](#) ; AZ Mirror, [02/01/2021](#)]

Bolick strongly opposed a COVID-19 vaccine mandate, promoting unfounded claims about China, and sponsored legislation for vaccine exemptions in schools. Bolick joined other Republicans in denouncing Former President Joe Biden's COVID-19 policy, which required private employers with over 100 employees to either mandate the COVID-19 vaccine or enforce weekly testing. She criticized the policy as a violation of individual freedoms and even suggested, without

evidence, that China might be using COVID-19 testing to collect DNA from Americans. She supported a GOP-backed proposal that would allow employees to sue employers for \$500,000 in damages if they were required to get vaccinated and later suffered a significant injury from the vaccine. This proposal would apply if employers denied religious exemptions and forced vaccination, adding another layer of legal risk for businesses. Bolick was also the primary sponsor of H.B. 2191, a controversial bill that sought to repeal an amendment to Section 36-672 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, explicitly excluding COVID-19, human papillomavirus (HPV), and any vaccines under emergency use authorization by the FDA from being required for school attendance. This move was widely criticized as an attempt to undermine public health efforts and further limit vaccination requirements. By prioritizing parental rights to make healthcare decisions for their children over expert guidance, Bolick's bill not only weakened public health protections but also exposed Arizona's schools and communities to preventable health risks. [AZ Mirror, [11/09/2021](#) ; [01/28/2022](#) ; AZ [HB2191](#)]

Bolick signed onto a letter calling to withhold funding to school districts that implement mask mandates. The same day three state universities announced they would implement mask mandates, 17 Arizona legislators wrote a letter to Governor Ducey calling for him to withhold federal funding to schools implementing such policies. The letter highlights preemption saying that local governments cannot make their own policies and the real issues of, "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](#)]