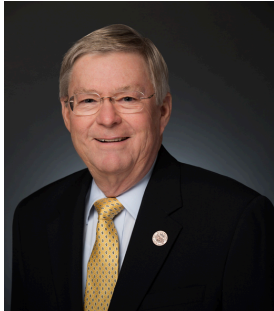


# Senator Vince Leach

District 17

## Legislative Biography



AZ Sen. Vince Leach is a Senator in the Arizona State Legislature who represents the 17th district and received 51.0% of the vote in his last election. He is the Ranking Member of the Finance committee, and a member of the Regulatory Affairs and Government Efficiency and Appropriations committees.

He works most frequently on Law (165 bills), Crime and Law Enforcement (126 bills), Economics and Public Finance (100 bills), Education (90 bills), and Taxation (85 bills). He has sponsored 148 bills in his last sixteen year(s) in office, voting with his party 96.7% of the time, getting 77.7% of his bills out of committee, and 31.08% of his sponsored bills enacted.

Before entering politics, Sen. Leach was involved in business. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point.

### **About**

Assumed Office - 2015

Next Election - 2026

Residence - Saddle Brooke, AZ

Term - 3rd term

### **Previous Experience**

Owner- Diversified Options, LLC, 2005-Current

Business Manager- Matrix Products, 1998-2009

Regional Manager- Allied Mineral Products, 1992-1998

Sales- Allied Mineral Products, 1988-1992

Former Member- SaddleBrooke Two Property Owners Organization Board

Member- American Civil Defense League

Member- National Rifle Association (NRA)

Member- Catalina Foothills Church

U.S. Army

[Quorum Biography, [Accessed 9/28/2021](#)]

## Undermining American Democracy

Activity	Description	Category	Role
HB 2794	Bans election officials from altering voting deadlines	Voter Suppression	Voted Yes
SR 1105	Holds county officials in contempt for refusing election "audit" subpoenas	Voter Suppression	Sponsored, Voted Yes
HCR 2023	Resolution opposing "For the People" Act	Voter Suppression	Sponsored, Voted Yes
HB 2905	Restricts mail ballot from being sent to all voters	Voter Suppression	Voted Yes
SB 1485	Allows purging voters from Permanent Early Voting List	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, Voted Yes in Committee
HB 2309	Criminalizes protests of seven or more people	Anti-First Amendment	Voted Yes in committee
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 sex ed and gender identity	Anti-First Amendment	Co-sponsored, Voted Yes
SB 1074	Bans public sector trainings on race, sex discrimination	Anti-First Amendment	Voted Yes

## Disinformation

### Big Lie

Here are examples of Senator Vince Leach's social media posts endorsing Trump's Big Lie:

**November 11th, 2020** - *Democrats Know Mail-In Voting Means Mass Fraud, And Pushed It Anyway*

**November 10th, 2020** - *I Was In Philadelphia Watching Fraud Happen. Here's How It Went Down* <https://t.co/3qr0Kd1iZu>

**October 25th, 2020** - *Joe Biden Boasts Of 'Most Extensive' Voter Fraud 'In The History Of American Politics'*

### COVID-19


Here are some examples of Senator Vince Leach's posts pushing dangerous anti-science sentiments during the historic pandemic:

**May 25th, 2021** - *How Lockdowns Helped Hide That COVID-19 Isn't A Reason For Panic* <https://t.co/v2KOUfVMUg>

**April 5th, 2020** - *NY Doctor Treating COVID-19 Patients: 'You Don't Have to be Scared'* <https://t.co/3L6Rn4DCz4>

## Black Lives Matter

Senator Vince Leach shared social media posts designed to undermine and delegitimize the movement for racial justice in the United States. Here are some examples:

**August 2nd, 2020** - Dr. Jack Daniel, PhD - 🇺🇸 I FOLLOW BACK 🇺🇸 (@JDPHD2):  Chicago's needs help 😬 Stupid mayor refuses it 🙄 She doesn't see a problem 😬 Young black men murdering each other 🐱 BLM & NBA don't care 🐱 They hate America 🐱 They want power & 💰 FED UP 📱 Follow @JDPHD2 📱 RT & leave @ <https://t.co/Kr4V16HnBG>

**July 9th, 2020** - BLM wants to burn down America, now Omar wants to dismantle America. Is this what you want? Is this what the Dem candidates on your ballot want-better check! The USA Can't Stop at 'Criminal Justice Reform,' We Must 'Dismantle Whole System of Oppression' <https://t.co/xk6sClAwrk>

## Other

**Vince Leach wrote legislation banning kids from attending drag shows, claiming they promote “sexual perversion”.** Vince Leach led the effort to write legislation banning minors from attending drag shows. A statement by the Senator said they promote “sexual perversion”. Leach said that this is not just a local issue and cited legislation supported by Governor Ron DeSantis in Florida, which would make it a crime for a parent to take a child to a drag show. Leach said, “If you had been researching this, you would have seen videotape of mothers turning kids’ heads to watch something when they turned away, something that’s vile, disgusting, and outside of a civil society. Do you believe that a young first grader or a kindergartner should be hauled into a show, stuffing dollars bills into G-strings of a drag queen. Do you think that’s good for our society?” Leach compared this legislation to other activities for which minors are banned. He said, “We don’t allow kids into strip joints. We don’t have kids going in bars by themselves. We have movie ratings.” Leach also said that this should not be a debatable subject “I don’t know where that line is. But I’m sure as hell going to try to find it... There are First Amendment rights that people have to do whatever it is they want to do. This is wrong for society to haul kids in and force them”. He also said it’s age-inappropriate, saying, “A first grader, a kindergarten kid, doesn’t even know what that’s all about/They still want to be Superman or Spider-Man. And now we’re going to teach them to be drag queens?” [Capitol Media Services, [7/25/22](https://www.capitolmedia.com/2022/7/25/22)]

**Vince Leach has been described as one of the “most corrupt” lawmakers in Arizona, who wrote legislation to hide his donors and dodge accountability.** The ADLCC reported, “Leach [voted](#) to eliminate the Clean Elections Campaign Finance Program and grow the influence of special interests in our elections. Leach [voted](#) to [hide the gifts that lobbyists gave him](#), and other lawmakers from the public. Leach [voted](#) to give a sweetheart contract worth \$1.5 million to [the son of one of Gov. Ducey’s former cabinet members](#).” [ADLCC, [8/1/2022](#)]

**Vince Leach voted to ban abortion, worked to repeal the Affordable Care Act and reduce healthcare access.** The ADLCC reported, “Leach is part of the reason why Arizona has one of the [highest uninsured rates](#) in the country. Leach [voted eight separate times](#) to restrict abortion. Leach

[voted against](#) restoring health care coverage (KidsCare) to as many as [30,000 children](#). Leach [voted](#) to [let insurance companies offer “junk insurance” policies](#) that don’t cover pre-existing conditions and let insurance companies rewrite health insurance plans if you get sick. Leach [voted](#) to [gut protections for people with pre-existing health conditions](#) and allow insurance companies to charge as much as they want for life-saving care.” [ADLCC, [8/1/2022](#)]

**After losing his 2022 election, Vince Leach served as the Southwest Regional Policy Officer for the [American Legislative Exchange Council](#).** The American Legislative Exchange Council, or ALEC, is a corporate bill mill. Through ALEC, corporate lobbyists and state legislators vote on “model bills” behind closed doors, without any public input, pushing policies that benefit corporations’ bottom line. Corporations fund almost all ALEC’s operations and pay for a seat on ALEC task forces. These “model bills” get introduced in statehouses nationwide under the guise of thoughtful, considerate public policy. In actuality, these bills are corporate, right-wing wish lists. [LinkedIn, accessed 2/26/2025]

**Vince Leach sponsored legislation to preempt bans on conversion therapy.** Leach sponsored SB 1269 in 2021, which would preclude local governments from banning the controversial practice of “conversion therapy.” In 2017, Pima County passed an ordinance that prohibited efforts to use therapy to convince individuals that they are not gay. Leach sponsored the legislation to overturn the ordinance. Leach claimed that nothing in current law precludes individual communities from enacting their own rules about who can practice mental health therapy, and there is no reason for a city or county to erect such barriers. Conversion therapy has been banned in 20 states, as it is abusive and causes irreparable harm. A national survey by the Trevor Project last year involving over 34,000 respondents found that 57% of LGBTQ respondents experienced suicidal ideations while undergoing conversion therapy. The bill died in the House. [Maricopa Monitor, [3/25/2021](#); 12 News, [2/18/2021](#)]

**Vince Leach invoked a racist conspiracy theory about Haitian immigrants eating dogs.** At a Log Cabin Republican meeting in Pima County, Leach entered the conversation about dog catchers, “They’d feed ‘em to the Haitians,” he said. According to the Arizona Mirror, “Leach’s comments stem from a conspiracy theory that was initially spread by neo-Nazis in the town of Springfield, Ohio, in an attempt to demonize Haitian immigrants in the community. Since then, the false claim has been spread across the right-wing media ecosystem, where it was embraced by Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance, the vice presidential nominee for the Republicans, and later being promoted by GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump.” [AZ Mirror, [10/3/2024](#)]

**Vince Leach traveled to Washington, DC, for a November 14th “Stop the Steal” election denial rally that ended in violence.** According to the ADLCC, “In the days after Arizona was called for Joe Biden, Leach took to social media to spread since-disproven claims of a ‘stolen election’ and ultimately traveled to Washington, D.C to promote these claims. The video shows then-state senator Vince Leach taking the stage before a crowd of Trump loyalists near the White House to re-up claims of supposed fraud, claim that Trump had won Arizona, and incite Trump loyalists to “go home and fight for Donald J. Trump:” Vance told the crowd “It is time that each one of us, no matter where we are from, what corner of the country, go home and fight for Donald J. Trump.” According

to the Washington Post, “While much of the day unfolded peacefully, brief but intense clashes erupted throughout. Activists spewed profanity and shouted threats, threw punches, and launched bottles. On both sides, people were bloodied, and at least 20 were arrested, including four whose allegiances remain unknown on gun charges. The chaos also left two officers injured.” [ADLCC, [8/16/2024](#), Washington Post, [11/14/2022](#), CSPAN, [11/14/2020](#)]

**Vince Leach allegedly used state resources unethically, lobbying to draw himself into a safe Republican district.** An investigation was called in response to [reports](#) that he used legislative staff resources to influence this redistricting process for his benefit. The complaint alleged that Republicans on the IRC changed maps to benefit Vince Leach and accused Leach of using his legislative office, staff, and resources to sway mapmakers. After gerrymandering himself into a safe district, Leach lost in the 2022 election. [ADLCC, [8/16/2024](#)]

**Vince Leach sponsored a proposal to fine teachers.** Leach defended a proposal that would fine educators who try to influence students’ political or religious views up to \$5,000, a push Democrats said was aimed at retribution for last year’s teacher strike. Leach said while explaining his backing of the proposal, “When everybody wore red last year in the classroom, that was not a left or a right — that was political action. That’s what Rep. Townsend in my mind’s eye is trying to say. No. Knock it off. That is political action.” [AP News, [4/3/2019](#)]

**Vince Leach helped launch the Arizona audit of the 2020 election, trying to find non-existent widespread voter fraud.** According to American Oversight, “The latest documents include a May exchange between Fann to state Sen. Vince Leach that provides yet another piece of evidence that Senate officials undertook the partisan operation with predetermined conclusions in mind — specifically, the discovery of (non-existent) widespread fraud. After Fann sent a text lamenting the lack of support for the “audit” in the media and from the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, Leach texted, “Ahh, but it will be great when it is shown they both were on the wrong side of the truth.” “The records also include multiple emails in which state Sen. Vince Leach exhorted constituents who claimed the election had been stolen to provide actual evidence. “I am looking (begging) for court-ready evidence,” Leach wrote on Nov. 18. “I will keep asking till I get some.” [American Oversight, [9/23/2021](#); American Oversight, [9/30/2021](#)]