

Know Before You Go: AZ-01 District Primer

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In the last election, Democrat Tom O'Halleran won this district by only 20,474 votes (7.3%).

That's too close! With your help, we're going to keep this seat for the Democrats in 2018.

About the Incumbent

Introduction: Democrat Tom O'Halleran, 70, is a first-term congressman. A former Chicago police officer and bond trader, he's lived in Arizona for 22 years. He served in the Arizona State legislature as a Republican from 2001 to 2009, but he left the GOP over disagreements with their education, water, and child welfare policies. He and his wife, to whom he has been married for 48 years, have three children and four grandchildren.

Issues: In the Arizona legislature he championed investments in all-day kindergarten, health care and substance-abuse programs. He supports investing in infrastructure and clean energy as ways to create jobs. He supports continuing education and job training programs, particularly for the Navajo and other rural constituents. He's pro-choice, an active advocate for veterans, and he supports protecting Social Security and Medicare from privatization.

Recent Elections: O'Halleran beat Republican Paul Babeu in 2016 by 20,000 votes (50.7% to 43.4%). Green Party candidate Ray Parrish won 6% of the vote.

Strengths: O'Halleran's key strengths are his focus on water issues critical to his constituents, his effectiveness in face-to-face meetings (whether with urban or rural constituents), and his advocacy for the Navajo Nation. He holds strong positions on education, reproductive rights, job training, and the need to eliminate dark money in politics by overturning Citizens United. He is considered a principled person whose primary concern is the welfare of his constituents. O'Halleran has been endorsed by the Arizona AFL-CIO, the Arizona Education Association, End Citizens United, and Planned Parenthood, to name a few.

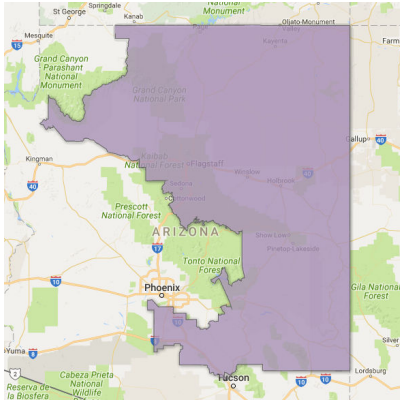
About the Challenger

Introduction: Republican Wendy Rogers earned a BA from MSU and a Masters from the University of Alabama, both in social work. She was commissioned as an Air Force officer in 1976 and became an Air Force pilot in 1981. Rogers earned an additional Masters in National Security Studies in 1986 and was stationed in Europe for the next decade. After leaving the Air Force in 1996, she opened a home inspection business with her husband. A former substitute teacher, she has been active as a development director of a charter school. She has two grown children whom she homeschooled before sending to a charter school; and four grandchildren.

Issues: Rogers promises to fight for "religious values." She wants to overturn Roe vs. Wade and defund Planned Parenthood. She opposes same-sex marriage. She also opposes gun control, including common-sense measures such as banning accessories that add lethality such as bump stocks, banning semi-automatics, and raising the age to own a firearm. She has an "A" rating from the NRA. She is committed to Trump's border wall. Although she favors additional tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy, and hamstringing the Federal Reserve, she also wants to reduce the national deficit. It is unclear how she would accomplish this without cutting essential programs like Medicare and Social Security. Rogers wants to repeal the ACA. She doesn't believe the government has a role in public schools. She wants to deepen American reliance on coal despite its catastrophic environmental impact.

Strengths: Rogers, who has lived in Arizona since 1996, has strong ties to the community.

Potential Weaknesses: Since 2010, Rogers has run unsuccessfully for office four times. Her unwavering support for Trump won't play well in Democratic-leaning AZ-01, nor will her endorsements by radical right-wing groups like the NRA, Tea Party Nation, and National Right to Life.



AZ-01: Facts & Stats

Population Centers

- Phoenix (partial), 4,270,000
- Tucson (partial), 990,000
- Prescott (partial), 210,000
- Lake Havasu (partial), 200,000
- Flagstaff, 130,000

2016 Presidential Results

- Clinton: 133K (47%)
- Trump: 136K (48%)

2016 House Results

- O'Halleran (D): 142K (51%)
- Babeu (R): 122K (43%)
- Other: 17K (6%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 137K
- Eligible, not registered: 65K

2014 House Results

- Kirkpatrick (D): 97K (53%)
- Tobin (R): 88K (47%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 187K

AZ-01: Better Know the District

Geography

Arizona's 1st Congressional District is the 10th-largest congressional district in the country and includes much of the state outside the Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan areas. The district is sparsely populated and includes Grand Canyon National Park as well as national forests and other protected lands.

Citizenry

The district has about 760,000 residents, including the largest Native American population of any congressional district in the country. AZ-01 includes the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Reservation, and the Gila River Indian Community. The district's population is estimated to be 66% white, 25% Native American, and 17% Hispanic. Fifty-five percent of the district's population is urban, while 45% is rural.

Recent Elections

Arizona's 1st Congressional District was a battleground district in 2016. Incumbent Democrat Ann Kirkpatrick chose to pursue a Senate seat, running against and losing (53.7% to 40%) to Sen. John McCain. Democrats perform well among Native Americans in Flagstaff, Sedona, and the Navajo Nation, while Republicans are stronger in rural areas where elections are often decided by voters who are fiscally conservative and socially libertarian.

Higher Education

Northern Arizona University, with 29,000 students, is located in Flagstaff.

Industries

Manufacturing, mining (copper, gold, and silver), and tourism are major industries in the district. There are several major copper mines in AZ-01. The district includes the coal-fired Navajo Generating Station which employs 1,700 people, mostly Native Americans. Arizona hosted 37 million tourists in 2008, supporting more than 170,000 jobs in travel and lodging.