

Know Before You Go: AZ-02 District Primer

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In the last election, Republican Martha McSally won this district by 44,000 votes (14%). But the district voted for Clinton in 2016. With your help, we're going to win this seat for the Democrats in 2018.

About the Republican Candidate

Introduction: Republican Lea Marquez Peterson was nominated as AZ-02's Republican opponent to Ann Kirkpatrick for the 2018 midterm elections, replacing Congresswoman Martha McSally, who is running for the U.S. Senate in Arizona. Marquez Peterson has run several businesses, including owning and operating a chain of gas stations and convenience stores, and a business brokerage firm. She is currently the CEO and President of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Issues: Marquez Peterson supports strong border security, including President Trump's wall. She supports the repeal and replacement of the ACA, favoring in its place "a system that works," but offers no specifics. Although Marquez Peterson criticizes the federal government's spending, she supports the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017 that adds an estimated \$1 billion to the deficit.

Strengths: Marquez Peterson highlights her familiarity with AZ-02; she has lived in the district for more than 40 years and has strong business connections there. Marquez Peterson has distanced herself from President Trump, while still supporting his policies. Democrats are taking heat for running an attack ad against Marquez Peterson while she was attending Senator McCain's funeral.

Potential Weaknesses: Marquez Peterson has no political experience. This is the first political office she has sought. Hillary Clinton carried AZ-02 by 5 points in 2016. The district was also previously represented by Democrats Gabrielle Giffords and Ron Barber, a former Giffords aide who succeeded her after she was seriously injured in a shooting that occurred at a constituent event.

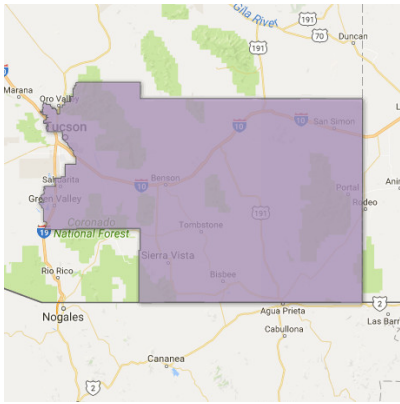
About the Democratic Candidate

Introduction: Democrat Ann Kirkpatrick previously represented AZ-01 for three terms and previously served in the Arizona House of Representatives. Kirkpatrick was born and raised in rural Arizona, graduating from college and law school at the University of Arizona. Kirkpatrick and her husband live near Tucson, near their adult children and grandchildren.

Issues: Kirkpatrick's campaign is focused on the economy, building infrastructure in Arizona, and ensuring health care for everyone. Kirkpatrick voted for the ACA. She supports the DISCLOSE Act, which requires reporting of dark money spent in elections, and the Government By the People Act that would incentivize campaigns that are funded by grassroots donors and not corporate PACs. She supports comprehensive immigration reforms and a secure border, and she has been a consistent advocate of the DREAM Act.

Committees: While in Congress, Kirkpatrick served on the House Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Small Business Committee as well as the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where she was a member of three subcommittees on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management. She also served on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, serving on both the economic opportunity and oversight and investigations subcommittees.

Strengths: Kirkpatrick has valuable Congressional experience and is committed to bipartisan solutions. She is a strong supporter of women and families, as shown by her cosponsoring the Paycheck Fairness Act, her vote to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, and her outspoken defense against defunding Planned Parenthood.



AZ-02: Better Know the District

Geography & Climate

Arizona's 2nd Congressional District occupies the southeast corner of the state, covering parts of Pima and Cochise Counties. The district includes more than 20,000 square miles of mostly high desert grassland, featuring mountains and wide valleys. It includes two-thirds of Tucson. Elevations run from 3,500 to 6,000 feet with the highest peaks in the eastern Chiricahua Range. The district's semi-arid climate features mild winters and hot summers. In most months, rainfall rarely exceeds one inch, but July and August are considered the "monsoon season," which is highlighted by intense storms that often cause flash floods.

AZ-02: Facts & Stats

Population Centers

- Tucson, 523,278 (partial, state's 2nd largest city)
- Sierra Vista, 45,187
- Douglas, 17,288
- Bisbee, 5,507
- Benson, 5,056
- Willcox, 3,710

2016 Presidential Results

- Clinton: 157K (50%)
- Trump: 141K (45%)

2016 House Results

- Heinz (D): 136K (43%)
- McSally (R): 180K (57%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 99K
- Eligible, not registered: 107K

2014 House Results

- Barber (D): 109,543 (49.9%)
- McSally (R): 109,704 (50%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 163K

Citizenry

Nearly 90% of the district's 723,000 people live in urban areas, most particularly in the Tucson metropolitan area. Door-to-door canvassing is difficult in the district's rural areas, as population centers are widely dispersed. The population is 82% white, 14% Hispanic, 2% black, and 2% Asian. The district's median household income is nearly \$45,000. Ninety percent of the district's citizens have a high school diploma, and 30% have college degrees.

Recent Elections

Former Republican Representative Martha McSally is not seeking reelection because she is running for the U.S. Senate seat left open by Jeff Flake who is not seeking reelection. McSally came to Congress in a narrow 2014 victory, beating incumbent Ron Barber by 161 votes after a mandatory recount. In 2016, she defeated former Democratic state representative Matt Heinz and a Libertarian write-in candidate. McSally tallied 57% of the vote to Heinz's 43%.

Education

Located within AZ-02 are two community college districts: Cochise College, with campuses in Douglas and Sierra Vista as well as centers in Benson, Ft. Huachuca and Willcox, and Pima Community College, which encompasses six campuses and four education centers throughout the greater Tucson area, including one located at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. Both colleges offer associate's degrees and vocational certificates. The University of Arizona's campus in Tucson (just outside of AZ-02) enrolls nearly 33,000 undergraduates and more than 9,000 graduate students. Faculty members total more than 3,100. The University of Arizona campus and the metropolitan campuses of Pima Community are rich targets for progressively minded students and faculty. Campus clubs should be explored and contacts leveraged for voter registration.

Industries

In line with the rest of the state, there's a large cohort of retirees (especially military retirees) in the district. The healthcare sector — both public and private — is the largest job contributor, followed by administrative professions. Military retirees tend to reside close to the district's two active military bases — in Tucson's east side and in Sierra Vista. Tourism is another major industry. Especially noteworthy is the district's high unemployment rate. Outreach to unemployed and underemployed residents should be a priority for the Democratic challenger in 2018.