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Arizona, What happened?

A 2026 Election Overview in Arizona

What We Looked for in primaries

Three simple lessons from historical election comparisons

1 Primary elections can offer early clues about voter enthusiasm.

2 The most useful comparisons account for how competitive each party's races were.

3 We compared 2024 and 2026 because both had competitive Republican statewide primaries.

The Statewide Numbe changed

Arizona primary ballots cast by party, 2024 vs. 2026

REPUBLICANS

750,903 → 631,135

119,768 fewer votes (-16%)

DEMOCRATS

521,158 → 528,363

7,205 more votes (+1.4%)

The biggest warning sign: voter motivation.
Democrats had no major contested statewide primary, yet 7,205 more Democrats voted than in 2024. Republicans had contested statewide primaries, yet 119,768 fewer Republicans voted. We interpreted that contrast as a sign of weaker Republican motivation. Our pre-session assessment: these turnout patterns pointed to a good year for Democrats.

how our model worked

We could plug in different assumptions and see how the forecast changed.

We started with polls available through September.
We tested assumptions about turnout and how different groups would vote.
We combined those factors into an election forecast, rather than relying on one poll.

Arizona Legislative Scenario Model - 2022 Governor Anchored

Editable Hobbs statewide margin (D+)	12.00		Statewide 2020→24 presidential shift (R+)	5.80	
Actual 2022 Hobbs statewide margin (D+)	0.67		Presidential trend persistence weight	0.25	
Scenario change from 2022 (D points)	11.33		Fditable secondary trend weight	0.33	

LD	2020 Pres. Numeric	2024 Pres. Numeric	20→24 LD Shift	Relative Pres. Trend vs AZ	2022 Gov. Numeric	Base Hobbs Scenario Numeric	Trend Adjustment	Hobbs Scenario Numeric	2022 Senate Numeric	2022 R Overperf.	2024 Senate Numeric	2024 R Overperf.	Avg. R Downballot Weight	Adjusted Legislative Numeric	Hobbs Scenario Outcome	Adjusted Legislative Outcome
2	2.00	5.50	3.50	-2.30	-1.81	-13.14	-0.58	-13.72	3.68	5.49	3.70	**-1.80**	**1.85**	-11.87	**D+13.7**	**D+11.9**
4	-0.80	3.50	4.30	-1.50	-3.93	-15.26	-0.38	-15.64	-0.96	2.97	3.70	**0.20**	**1.59**	-14.05	**D+15.6**	**D+14.1**
9	-6.00	-3.00	3.00	-2.80	-8.02	-19.35	-0.70	-20.05	-4.94	3.08	-3.50	**-0.50**	**1.29**	-18.76	**D+20.0**	**D+18.8**
13	-3.00	1.19	4.19	-1.61	-3.90	-15.23	-0.40	-15.63	3.46	7.36	6.30	**5.11**	**6.24**	-9.40	**D+15.6**	**D+9.4**
16	4.00	9.40	5.40	-0.40	3.73	-7.60	-0.10	-7.70	11.42	7.69	12.00	**2.60**	**5.14**	-2.55	**D+7.7**	**D+2.6**
17	4.00	3.90	-0.10	-5.90	-0.26	-11.59	-1.48	-13.07	2.48	2.74	2.00	**-1.90**	**0.42**	-12.65	**D+13.1**	**D+12.6**
23	-14.00	-1.80	12.20	6.40	-10.49	-21.82	1.60	-20.22	-7.32	3.17	-7.60	**-5.80**	**-1.32**	-21.53	**D+20.2**	**D+21.5**
27	8.00	11.30	3.30	-2.50	4.98	-6.35	-0.63	-6.98	10.28	5.30			**5.30**	-1.68	**D+7.0**	**D+1.7**

what our model project

Polling through September: 55.5% Democratic tweparty share

Hobbs +12

Statewide scenario used for the district estimates

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT	DEMOCR
LD 2	D +11.9
LD 4	D +14.1
LD 9	D +18.8
LD 13	D +9.4
LD 16	D +2.6
LD 17	D +12.6
LD 23	D +21.5
LD 27	D +1.7

Forecast margins, not actual election results. Source: user-provided 12-point model scenario

what our model project

November 2026 Election Results:

Hobbs +13.2

Reported statewide margin over Biggs

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT	DEMOCR
LD 2	D +12.1
LD 4	D +4.8
LD 9	D +21.2
LD 13	D +10.0
LD 16	D +2.7
LD 17	D +8.1
LD 23	D +27.8
LD 27	D +6.1

Reported Senate margins, November 2026 unofficial results; subject to final certification.

a national democratic advantage not seen in 50 years

Estimated U.S. House popular vote, as reported November 18, 2026

D + 14

National House popular vote margin

Democrats led the national House vote by roughly 14 percentage points. The last larger party advantage came in 1974, following Watergate.

Source: Washington Post, Nov. 18, 2026. Preliminary national House vote; counting ongoing

why that national shift mattered in Arizona

Arizona was a closely divided state, not a reliably Republican one.

A national shift this large could have outsized impact on competitive Arizona races. Even a smaller shift in Arizona could change the outcome of close contests.

Our Arizona model tested what different statewide margins would mean for legislative races, rather than assuming every district would match the national vote.

National House vote is context, not a direct prediction of Arizona results.

what we expect in the 2 session

Arizona's 58th Legislature convenes January 11, 2027

Early Hearings

With Democrats leading both chambers and Gov. Katie Hobbs reelected, we expect early hearings on public education, affordability and health care.

Budget Negotiations

The FY 2028 budget will test how much of that agenda the caucuses can fund. Federal HR 1 changes to SNAP and Medicaid will compete for attention with state tax conformity.

Proposals likely to split the caucuses

Expect debate over the scope of ESA changes, the cost of new commitments and how far to go on data-center regulation.

What We'll Watch First

The governor's budget, early committee agendas and any Prop. 123 referral will give the clearest road on what can move this session.

Sources: Arizona Capitol Times, Nov. 6. ArMA, Nov. 20. JLBC baseline.

Democrats' top prioritie

Public signals from incoming leaders and Democratic allies

Public Education

Incoming leaders have pointed to tighter Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESA) oversight and a Prop. 123 renewal to support K-12 funding. Renewal would go to voters.

Affordability & Housing

Speaker-elect Oscar De Los Santos has emphasized household costs and signaled continued interest in limits on corporate purchases of single-family homes.

Health Care

House leadership has named health care a priority. We expect access and affordability to feature in budget discussions as federal Medicaid changes take effect.

Labor and Gun Safety

Watch for prevailing-wage and outdoor heat-protection proposals, along with a renewed push for secure firearm storage.

Sources: Axios Phoenix, Nov. 9, 2026

incoming democratic leadership

Arizona House and Senate majority teams

HOUSE

Speaker-elect
Oscar De Los Santos

Speaker pro tempore
Quanta Crews

Majority Leader **Nancy Gutierrez**

Majority Whips
Brian Garcia and Kevin Volk

SENATE

President-elect
Priya Sundareshan

Presidents pro tempore
Alma Hernandez and Edgar Soto

Majority Leader
Christine Marsh

Majority Whip
Analise Ortiz

Majority caucus chairs
Rosanna Gabaldón and Aaron Lieberman

incoming democratic Committee Chairs

All announced House and Senate chair assignments as of November 23, 2026

HOUSE

Democracy, Civil Rights & Government	**Betty Villegas**
Education	**Stephanie Simacek**
Fiscal Policy	**Lorena Austin**
Health & Human Services	**Sarah Liguori**
Labor & Commerce	**Cesar Aguilar**
Rules	**Stacey Travers**
Rural Affairs	**Sally Ann Gonzales**
Small Business, Economic Development & Technology	**Junelle Cavero**
Transportation, Infrastructure & Public Safety	**Consuelo Hernandez**
Tribal Affairs	**Mae Peshlakai**
Veterans & Military Families	**Aaron Márquez**
Water, Environment & Energy	**Christopher Mathis**

SENATE

Appropriations	**Aaron Lieberman**
Climate, Energy & Natural Resources	**Lauren Kuby**
Education	**Eva Diaz**
Finance	**Brian Fernandez**
Government & Judiciary	**Analise Ortiz**
Health	**Alma Hernandez**
Human Services	**Patricia Contreras**
Indian Affairs	**Jamescita Peshlakai**
Labor & Commerce	**Flavio Bravo**
Rules	**Christine Marsh**
Transportation, Infrastructure & International Affairs	**Catherine Miranda**
Veterans & Military Affairs	**Kiana Sears**
Water	**Priya Sundareshan**

what we're watching in Pinal County

Pinal Partnership's 2027 Legislative Outlook

Water Supply

Colorado River litigation and negotiations could bring state funding or mitigation proposals. Watch for legislation clarifying the Alternative Designation of Assured Water Supply (ADAWS) rules.

Housing and Growth

Affordability bills could reopen debates over local zoning. In the Pinal Active Management Area, water availability will still shape where housing can move forward.

Data Centers & Utilities

Expect proposals on who pays for grid upgrades and how projects account for water use. Watch for siting requirements that could affect Pinal projects.

Transportation Funding

Watch the executive budget and early appropriations hearings for Pinal's road and interchange projects, especially requests that need state matching funds.

thank you.
questions?



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