

AZ-02 District Primer

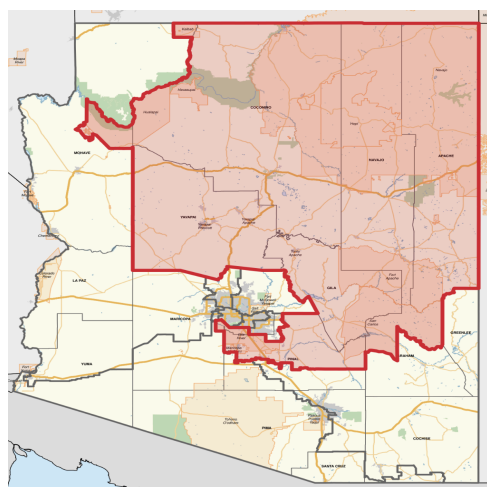
In 2024, Republican Eli Crane won this seat by 36,450 votes—that’s just 22 votes per precinct. If we can persuade just 23 voters per precinct, we can win this year. With your help, we’re going to **FLIP** this key seat and secure a Democratic House majority in 2026.

Key dates
Primary: July 21
Last day to register to vote: October 5
Midterms: November 3

Recent Election Results

2024 Presidential Election	2024 House Election	2022 House Election
Harris: 174,969 (42%) Trump: 237,306 (57%)	Jonathan Nez (D): 184,963 (46%) Eli Crane (R): 221,413 (54%)	Tom O’Halloran (D): 149,151 (46%) Eli Crane (R): 174,169 (54%)

District Facts & Stats



Largest Cities

- Flagstaff, pop. 77,763
- Prescott Valley, 53,674
- Prescott, 49,298

Geography

AZ-02 covers a vast portion of northern, central and eastern Arizona, excluding the Phoenix metro area. The mostly rural region includes Flagstaff, Prescott, Sedona and the Grand Canyon. This district was redrawn in 2021 to dilute Native American voting power.

Citizenry

The population in 2024 was nearly 854,000, with 51% urban and 49% rural. Ethnicity is largely white (55%), Native American (20%), and Hispanic (17%). Median household income is \$70,376 and the unemployment rate is 5.8%. 12% have no health insurance and 4.5% have public coverage. Nearly 15% of residents have income below the poverty level.

The Local Vibe

Nearly one quarter of the jobs in the district are in health and education. Healthcare funding cuts in Trump’s so-called “Big Beautiful Bill” threaten AZ-02 rural hospitals in Page, Winslow, and Globe.

In the summer of 2025, the Dragon Bravo wild fire burned through large swaths around the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. It damaged tourist infrastructure including the Grand Canyon Lodge. Many blame federal policy including a controlled burn approach and Forest Service layoffs and other funding freezes for the massive damage.

The effect of federal cuts to food assistance will be significant in parts of AZ-02.

Key Issues

- **Threats to rural healthcare:** Federal cuts put multiple rural hospitals at risk in this largely rural district.
 - **Cuts to benefits:** 15% of the district is below the poverty line and is vulnerable to cuts in SNAP and Medicaid.
 - **Tourism:** In 2024, tourists spent almost \$1B in areas around the Grand Canyon. Trump's depressive effect on international tourism, coupled with federal mismanagement of wildfire risk, are putting this key economic engine at risk.
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About the Candidates

Eli Crane | GOP Incumbent

A former Navy SEAL, **Eli Crane** is co-founder of Bottle Breacher, a manufacturer of bottle openers made from decommissioned 50-caliber bullet casings and featured on *Shark Tank*. He was elected in 2022 after the district lines were redrawn.

Crane has proposed legislation he can point to as evidence of his efforts on behalf of the district. HR 5729, the North Rim Restoration Act, provides for emergency recovery from the Dragon Bravo Fire; HR 6931, the Yavapai-Apache Nation Water Rights Settlement Act of 2025, approves settlement of water rights claims and authorizes and funds construction of a related project. Neither bill has yet passed the Senate or become law.

Crane is unequivocally pro-Trump. He is a border security hawk who has introduced a bill for a ten-year moratorium on all immigration to the US. He demonizes opponents by seeking to defeat "woke and weaponized government." Crane voted to support Trump's tariffs. He is against ACA subsidies and voted in favor of Medicaid cuts. Crane spreads conspiracy theories, including those about the 2025 assassination attempts against Trump. He controversially referred to "colored people" on the House floor. He is vociferously pro-life and a gun-rights fundamentalist.

Jonathan Nez | Democratic Challenger

Jonathan Nez is the former President of the Navajo Nation (2019-2023). He holds a BA and MPA from Northern Arizona University. Nez was born in Tuba City, AZ, and grew up in a household without running water or electricity. If he succeeds, Nez will be the first Native American to represent Arizona in the House.

Nez believes Arizonans deserve affordable healthcare, solid water rights, and stronger infrastructure. Nez will fight for lower costs on essentials from childcare to groceries and against tariffs that raise prices for consumers across the board. He will protect mail-in voting and fight attempts to restrict voter access. He supports comprehensive immigration reform that includes border security and a pathway to citizenship.

Due to his position in the Navajo Nation and to his 2024 challenge to Crane, Nez has name recognition. As former Navajo Nation President and member of the Navajo Nation Council, he can point to a record of executive leadership during the Covid-19 epidemic as well as legislative experience.

Nez is endorsed by Senators Mark Kelly (D-AZ) and Ruben Gallego (D-AZ), AZ Attorney General Kris Mayes, House Reps. Greg Stanton and Yassamin Ansari, the Arizona Building and Construction Trades Council (AZBTC), the Blue Dog Coalition, League of Conservation Voters (LCV), Chispa AZ and NewDem Action Fund. He is supported by the DCCC's Red-to-Blue program.

The contrast: Crane is joined at the hip to Trump. He is less interested in his district than he is in taking sides on inflammatory national culture-war issues. Unlike him, Nez is focused on affordability, maintaining voter rights, and immigration reform, and he has the support of the AZ Democratic leadership.

Sign up for another event: mobilize.us/swingleft

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