

ALEXANDER KOLODIN

In March 2025, Republican Alexander Kolodin launched his campaign for Arizona Secretary of State under the banner of the far-right Arizona Freedom Caucus, positioning himself as a champion of “election integrity” and a critic of Democratic Secretary of State Adrian Fontes. Kolodin is an election attorney and two-term state representative from Scottsdale. First elected to the Arizona House in 2022 after previously running for the state Senate, Kolodin was appointed vice chair of the House Committee on Municipal Oversight and Elections and later chaired a special House Ad Hoc Committee on Election Integrity and “Florida-style” voting systems, using those roles to push aggressive changes to election administration and voter access. Kolodin lives in Scottsdale with his wife and two children and holds degrees from Georgetown University and the University of Pennsylvania Carey School of Law. In February 2026, former chair of the Arizona Republican Party, Gina Swoboda, entered the primary against Kolodin.

Key findings:

Kolodin is an election denier who was sanctioned by the State Bar of Arizona for his involvement in lawsuits seeking to overturn the 2020 election. In 2020, Kolodin worked with Sidney Powell on the so-called “Kraken” suit seeking to block certification of Joe Biden’s win, served as an attorney for the Cyber Ninjas during the Arizona Senate’s 2020 election “audit,” and brought several other election challenges that federal courts dismissed, including “Sharpiegate” litigation over alleged ballot-marking problems. In 2023, the State Bar of Arizona reprimanded him, imposed 18 months of probation, and ordered him to pay costs and complete ethics training after finding that several of his election cases lacked merit and failed to properly inform clients of their chances.

Kolodin played a central legal role in efforts tied to January 6, representing key Arizona figures who tried to overturn the 2020 election. After the 2020 election, Kolodin represented Arizona GOP chair Kelli Ward and other party officials in litigation seeking to block the House January 6 committee from obtaining their phone records and communications. He also advised and defended Arizona Republicans involved in the fake elector effort and served as counsel to Rep. Mark Finchem in defamation and ethics-related disputes arising from Finchem’s presence at the U.S. Capitol on January 6 and his efforts to overturn the 2020 results.

Kolodin wants to restrict or end early and mail-in voting. In 2022 and 2023, Kolodin represented the Arizona Republican Party in a series of unsuccessful lawsuits seeking to completely end early and absentee voting for Arizonans. In the legislature, Kolodin was one of the key architects of a 2024 election law that required on-site counting of some early ballots and imposed new reporting rules that contributed to slower release of 2024 results. He is currently pushing for ballot resolutions that would significantly limit voting by mail and raise the threshold for voter-initiated constitutional amendments from a simple majority to 60 percent, and he claims that most voters are willing to sacrifice convenience in exchange for stricter election rules

Kolodin has represented and defended activists involved in aggressive “election integrity” efforts, including armed surveillance of ballot drop boxes. In 2022, Kolodin represented Clean Elections USA and its founder in litigation over armed volunteers monitoring ballot drop boxes, arguing that their activities were protected by the First Amendment and that they enhanced election security. A federal judge ordered restrictions on the group’s conduct, and a settlement required Clean Elections USA to state that it is illegal to intimidate voters and that there is no proof that widespread “ballot mule” activity occurred. In the legislature and in court, Kolodin has also promoted hand counting of ballots as a

replacement for machine tabulation, backing requirements that counties perform labor-intensive hand counts that election officials and experts have warned are error prone, slow down reporting of results, and are unworkable at the scale of modern statewide elections.

Kolodin has a history of open conflict with fellow Republicans over elections, budgets, and party leadership. Kolodin is an outspoken member of the far-right Arizona Freedom Caucus. He has repeatedly broken with GOP leaders on major budget deals, describing one negotiated spending plan as a “train wreck” and calling Republicans who backed another Senate budget “enemies of the people of Arizona.” He was one of only 13 House members to oppose expelling Rep. Liz Harris after she invited false, defamatory testimony about election officials and he publicly criticized Maricopa County Supervisor Bill Gates for discussing his PTSD from post-2020 threats. Kolodin also publicly denounced plans to honor Arizona icon former Justice Sandra Day O’Connor with a statue at the U.S. Capitol, calling her an “undistinguished jurist” because of her rulings on abortion and affirmative action. In his March 2025 campaign announcement video, Kolodin fabricated a claim that former Republican Party Chair Gina Swoboda endorsed his Secretary of State bid. In February 2026, Swoboda entered the primary against Kolodin herself.

Kolodin holds hardline positions on abortion, guns, immigration, and LGBTQ rights. Kolodin holds several extreme positions. He opposed efforts to repeal Arizona’s 1864 total abortion ban and urged voters to defeat Republican lawmakers who backed repeal, accusing one GOP colleague of supporting “abortion till birth.” On immigration, he supported SB 1231 to allow Arizona police to arrest people who entered the country illegally, backed legislation to allow ranchers to legally shoot and kill undocumented immigrants who cross their land, and described unauthorized immigration as an “invasion.” Kolodin called for deporting Dreamers saying, “they have to go back,” and has endorsed reinterpreting the Fourteenth Amendment to end birthright citizenship. Kolodin has also sponsored a bill to make the firing squad Arizona’s method of capital punishment, introduced legislation to legalize civilian possession of fully automatic machine guns and improvised explosive devices under state law, and supported measures limiting transgender rights.

BACKGROUND

2014-Present: Kolodin has a boutique law firm specializing in “complex litigation, commercial real estate, and personal injury matters.” “The Kolodin Law Group is a boutique law firm based in Midtown Phoenix that specializes in delivering cost effective results in complex litigation, commercial real estate, and personal injury matters.” [Goldwater Institute Press Release, 5/1/18; Alexander Kolodin LinkedIn, accessed [3/12/26](#)]

2021-2024: Kolodin was an attorney with the Davillier Law Group. “Lucero works for Davillier Law Group, which is also the professional home of Rep. Jacqueline Parker, R-Mesa, and Alexander Kolodin, who has represented a number of Arizona Republican officials.” [Arizona Capitol Times, 10/26/22; Davillier Law Group, [6/17/24](#)]

2024: Kolodin was reelected to the Arizona state House. “Former Cyber Ninjas attorney Alexander Kolodin was reelected to the House. The attorney has worked for a number of election deniers and Republican elected officials, including on challenges to the election.” [Arizona Mirror, [11/18/24](#)]

- **2023: Kolodin was appointed vice chair of the House Committee on Municipal Oversight and Elections.** “He won his race this year to be a member of the legislature. And Kolodin has been appointed the vice chair of the House Committee on Municipal Oversight and Elections.” [Arizona Daily Star, [12/7/22](#)]
- **2022: Kolodin was elected to the Arizona state House after winning the Republican primary and being unopposed in the general election.** “Alexander Kolodin, along with incumbent Rep. Joseph Chaplik, will head to the House in January from Legislative District 3, (which includes north Scottsdale, Fountain Hills and Anthem), following the primary election. Kolodin worked with Trump attorney Sidney Powell on a legal challenge to the 2020 election that was tossed out of court because of a lack of evidence, and has represented the Arizona Republican Party in its attempt to end mail voting in Arizona. They have no opponents in the general election.” [Arizona Republic, [9/12/22](#)]

2020: Kolodin launched a primary campaign against Republican State Senator Michelle-Ugenti-Rita. “In the state Senate there are only five districts with a primary challenge, including the Barto and Carter race in Legislative District 15. Legislative District 22, on the Republican side, has Sen. David Livingston, the incumbent, against two opponents Van Dicarlo and Hop Nguyen. Sen. Michelle Ugenti-Rita will face Alexander Kolodin in the Legislative District 23 Republican primary.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [5/29/20](#)]

2018: Kolodin was a member of the Goldwater Institute’s American Freedom Network. “Kolodin is a member of the Goldwater Institute's American Freedom Network, which provides an opportunity for attorneys across the nation to lend their skills, expertise, and interests to the Institute's efforts to defend freedom. Attorneys who are a part of the Network litigate cases, assist with legal research, write amicus briefs, represent clients at the administrative level, and serve as local counsel on a pro bono basis. Subject matters for this pro bono service include free speech, public records laws, school choice, economic liberty, public sector union reform, private property and taxpayer protection suits, among others.” [Goldwater Institute Press Release, 5/1/18]

2013-2014: Kolodin was an associate at Bowman and Brooke in Phoenix. [Alexander Kolodin LinkedIn, accessed [3/12/26](#)]

Kolodin lives in Scottsdale with his wife and two children. “Alex is a graduate of Georgetown University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and a former Reagan Fellow at the Goldwater Institute’s Scharf Norton Center for Constitutional Litigation. He lives in Scottsdale with his wife and two children.” [Alex for Arizona, [accessed 3/15/26](#)]

Kolodin attended Georgetown University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Kolodin holds a bachelor’s degree in foreign service from Georgetown University and a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Carey School of Law. [Alexander Kolodin LinkedIn, [accessed 3/12/26](#)]

2020 State Senate Campaign

August 2020: Kolodin ran in a Republican primary against State Sen. Michelle Ugenti-Rita. [Ballotpedia, [accessed 3/7/26](#)]

Kolodin lost to Ugenti-Rita by a 60/40 margin. “Scottsdale state Sen. Michelle Ugenti-Rita has defeated a well-funded challenger in the 23rd Legislative District. Attorney Alex Kolodin had attacked her in the Republican primary for being a “scandal-plagued” career politician. Ugenti-Rita and her now-husband were accused of sexually harassing a female lobbyist, which she denies. Ugenti-Rita is a longtime lawmaker whose harassment allegations against former Rep. Don Shooter led to his expulsion.” [Associated Press, [8/5/20](#)]

Kolodin received support from the social conservative wing of the Republican Party for his campaign against Michelle Ugenti-Rita. “Ugenti-Rita’s national reputation for adding barriers to ballots adds to her popularity among Republicans, and she used that reputation to draw a distinction between herself and Kolodin, who once represented a progressive activist accused of ballot harvesting in a defamation case against a GOP activist. But Kolodin received support from the social conservative wing of the party, including the Center for Arizona Policy and Reps. Shawna Bolick, R-Phoenix, and Walt Blackman, R-Flagstaff.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [8/4/20](#)]

Michelle Ugenti-Rita threatened to sue Kolodin for defamation for campaigning on sexual harassment allegations against her. “Ugenti-Rita’s primary opponent, Scottsdale attorney Alex Kolodin, is all too happy for voters to continue thinking of Ugenti-Rita laying on a bar for body shots and having her now-husband solicit a threesome, as the lobbyist alleged in her deposition. In campaign mailers, social media ads and sly asides during interviews, Kolodin calls out Ugenti-Rita’s ‘issues with lobbyists’ and describes the incumbent as ‘scandal-plagued.’ ‘Everybody who is familiar with politics in Scottsdale, the people who are really actively involved, know the backstory and know the scandal,’ Kolodin said. ‘It’s become a known thing among the electorate. I want to be represented by somebody who makes me proud as a constituent, and that’s certainly one of the reasons that I wanted to run.’ Ugenti-Rita has assiduously refused to acknowledge the allegations against her, ignoring questions from reporters and avoiding forums and debates where they could arise. Her Senate colleagues closed ranks around her in February, after the Arizona Capitol Times and other media organizations obtained copies of the court filings. She is currently embroiled in a defamation lawsuit against former lawmaker Don Shooter, who was expelled from the state House after Ugenti-Rita and several other women complained that he harassed them. And if Kolodin continues discussing sexual harassment allegations leveled at Ugenti-Rita, she may sue him as well, her lawyer said in a letter sent to Kolodin last week. ‘I am well aware that the days of civility for most people in political campaigns are well behind us in America, but that does not give you a license to harm Ms. Ugenti-Rita’s reputation with false and defamatory statements about her,’ attorney Mark Goldman wrote. ‘I hope that you will rise above your current

obvious inclination to defame Ms. Ugenti-Rita. Do you really want this type or conduct to be part of your political legacy in Arizona?” [Arizona Capitol Times, [7/17/20](#)]

- **Kolodin’s campaign flyer: “how can Ugenti-Rita stand up for us against special interests when she’s busy using her power to recruit lobbyists for sex with her boyfriend?”**
“Alexander Kolodin has jumped into the race to challenge Ugenti-Rita for the Republican senate nomination in this district that spans much of Scottsdale and Fountain Hills. And Kolodin has pointed to the scandal in arguing that the GOP ought to ditch the incumbent senator. A legislator’s private life would not ordinarily be anyone else’s business, Kolodin wrote in one mailer to voters. ‘But how can Ugenti-Rita stand up for us against special interests when she’s busy using her power to recruit lobbyists for sex with her boyfriend,’ Kolodin adds in the flyer. Ugenti-Rita has dodged reporters’ questions about the lobbyist’s allegations. She referred The Arizona Republic to her attorney when asked about the mailer. Mark Goldman, her lawyer, accused Kolodin of engaging in a smear campaign ‘using false and defamatory accusations.’” [Arizona Republic, 7/24/20]

Kolodin accused Sen. Michelle Ugenti Rita of stealing his idea to allow business owners to maim or kill “looters.” “A Republican lawmaker who wants to allow business owners to maim or kill looters is under fire from progressive activists who say she’s inciting violence and from her primary opponent, who says she stole his idea. Sen. Michelle Ugenti-Rita, R-Scottsdale, explained in a lengthy Facebook post late last week that she was asking Gov. Doug Ducey to extend a legal justification for using force or deadly force to business owners or managers defending their property from criminal damage. [...] Ugenti-Rita’s primary challenger, Scottsdale attorney Alex Kolodin, said he thinks Ugenti-Rita stole the idea for her latest proposed bill from one of his own ads nearly a week before she made her post. And he said that’s proof that the hotly contested GOP primary is a race between a career politician and an outsider with fresh new ideas. On May 31, the day after looting occurred, Kolodin posted photos of several Scottsdale businesses with graffiti and broken windows with a caption asking followers to let him know if they ‘think that the state ought to have police and citizens’ backs if they use force in defense of Scottsdale homes and businesses.’ He paid to promote the post, and said it was the second-best performing ad of his campaign. Because of that, he said, he’s quite sure Ugenti-Rita or at least her campaign team saw the ad. ‘It’s important legislation. I’m glad that she took it and is running with it,’ he said, adding that his goal as someone who wants to serve in government is to pass good legislation. ‘Heck, if I can do it without even being in office, great.’” [Arizona Capitol Times, [6/9/20](#)]

Conflicts With The Republican Party

2014: Kolodin represented Citizens for a Better Arizona in a defamation suit against Maricopa County GOP Chairman AJ LeFaro for accusing a CBA canvasser of “stuffing the ballot box.”
“After failing to get an apology from Maricopa County GOP Chairman A.J. LaFaro for his characterization of their canvasser as a ‘a vulgar, disrespectful thug that has no respect for our laws,’ Citizens for a Better Arizona is pushing ahead with a defamation lawsuit against the Republican. LaFaro made waves on conservative websites last week after he released a surveillance video from the Maricopa County Elections Department purporting to show canvasser Ben Marin “stuffing the ballot box” by delivering early ballots to the elections office. The video has received more than half-a-million views on Youtube and has been featured in nightly news as well as conservative websites. In his account of the event, which happened the day before the primary election, LaFaro wrote that Marin was ‘stuffing the ballot’ and told him, ‘Go f*** yourself, gringo. ‘ LaFaro also wrote that he would have followed him to the parking lot — except that he ‘feared for (his) life. ‘ In his filing with the Maricopa County Superior Court, attorney Alexander Kolodin, who has been retained by Citizens for a Better Arizona, wrote that ‘at no point during the encounter did Marin ever use vulgar or racist language. Nor did he at any point

make threatening or obscene gestures.’ The lawsuit claims LaFaro acted with malice in calling Marin a ‘thug’ and in claiming that get-out-the-vote groups like CBA take un-voted ballots and fill them out.” [Arizona Capital Times, 10/31/14]

2018: Kolodin tried to have Republican Wendy Rogers’ petitions invalidated for a Congressional campaign. “Wendy Rogers can run for Congress despite an error on her nominating petitions, Maricopa County Superior Court Judge James Smith ruled Thursday Smith acknowledged that state law requires that petitions list the county of the people who are signing it. The aim is to make it easier for recorders in each county to be able to verify the signatures of local voters. What happened here is that many, if not most of the petitions that were circulated on her behalf were labeled as coming from Coconino County. Attorney Mike Liburdi said that was an apparent error on the part of campaign workers who thought the requirement was to list the county of the candidate's residence. Attorney Alexander Kolodin argued that error invalidated the petitions from other counties — there are 11 in the sprawling congressional district — a move that would have left Rogers short of the signatures needed to qualify for the Aug. 28 primary.” [Arizona Daily Star, [6/21/18](#)]

2022: Kolodin wrote a letter of support for a judicial nomination of a Democratic attorney who worked against him fighting election fraud claims in 2020. “Republican senators on Wednesday grilled Arizona attorney Roopali Desai, a nominee to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, over her history of working for progressive causes and her work fighting claims of 2020 election fraud. [...] One letter of support came from Alexander Kolodin, an attorney who opposed Desai in lawsuits challenging the 2020 election results and the state Senate's much-maligned audit of that election. ‘Having faced the very best litigators the other side has to offer, I can tell you with confidence - nobody else holds a candle to Ms. Desai,’ wrote Kolodin, who said he had seen her advocated for clients ‘by making originalist arguments that might have come from Justice (Clarence) Thomas' pen.’” [Cronkite News, [7/23/22](#)]

2023: Kolodin was one of only 13 members who voted against expelling state Rep. Liz Harris for inviting a conspiracy theorist to publicly testify before lawmakers. “The state House voted Wednesday to expel Chandler Republican Liz Harris after the Ethics Committee found she invited false testimony and lied. By a 46-13 vote, the Republican-led House accepted the committee's findings that Harris knew that someone she invited to testify at a hearing on election integrity was going to present not just false but defamatory accusations against lawmakers, judges and even the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, accusing them of being involved in a criminal scheme to rig elections and other crimes. [...] Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, said the decision to oust her versus some lesser punishment like censure was unwarranted. ‘Liz Harris made an error in judgment,’ he said. ‘She did something she shouldn't have done.’ Kolodin said Harris ‘played shell games,’ hiding from House leaders what Breger intended to say despite rules to the contrary. ‘But expulsion sets a bad precedent. It sets a bad precedent because we don't want to expel (House) members for what members of the public say,’ he told colleagues. The grounds for expelling Harris were that her conduct damaged ‘the institutional integrity of the House.’ But Kolodin said the people who sent Harris to the Capitol to ‘rock the boat’ will not see the situation that way. ‘They will perceive that they don't have a true voice in this body because when they elect somebody to rock the boat and she does it, albeit in a wrong way, a way that should have been better considered, that member will be expelled,’ Kolodin said. He argued it makes Harris a ‘martyr.’” [Arizona Daily Star, [4/12/23](#)]

2023: Kolodin mocked Republican Maricopa County Supervisor Bill Gates for suffering from PTSD after being pressured by Donald Trump to overturn the 2020 election. “Over the weekend, the Washington Post published a moving and intensely personal account of the cost of being a Maricopa County supervisor in the three years since Donald Trump lost Arizona. Gates is one of the few remaining mainstream Republicans left in office in Arizona. [...] Gates recounted his story to the Post’s

Yvonne Wingett Sanchez — the fear and the anger, the feeling of betrayal that triggered headaches and insomnia and turned him into someone his own wife didn't recognize. [...] Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, also took a minute to offer a kind word of support. 'I went through all these (except PTSD) for fighting for Election Integrity,' he tweeted. 'Where's my glowing profile @yvonnewingett?' Kolodin is one of the lawyers who filed a federal lawsuit on Trump's behalf, claiming 'massive widespread fraud' in the 2020 election. It was tossed out by U.S. District Court Judge Diane Humetewa, who called it long on 'gossip and innuendo' but short on actual evidence. Kolodin's sneering disdain for Gates' struggles was retweeted by Arizona Majority, the Twitter account of House Speaker Ben Toma, Majority Leader Leo Basiucci and their fellow House Republicans." [Laurie Roberts Column, Arizona Republic, [5/8/23](#)]

2023: Kolodin condemned an Arizona College Republican event with white nationalist Nick Fuentes. "A flyer promoting an annual convention for Arizona College Republicans United features Nick Fuentes as the keynote speaker of the event. Fuentes, a political commentator that has met with former President Donald Trump and rapper Kanye West, has often made antisemitic comments online and on his 'America First' talk show and has been widely criticized by other conservative figures. [...] Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, and former state lawmaker Adam Kwasman also took issue with how College Republicans United portrayed the event. The two were the first to share that the county parties weren't involved. [...] Kolodin called Fuentes a 'noted POS' on Twitter and responded to Arizona State University's College Republicans United group who criticized "RINOS" for trying to shut down the event. 'Not trying to shut down your event bro, just trying to make sure you don't tar my beloved Republican Party with that brush. If you guys want to hear Fuentes speak, you have that right but leave us out of it,' Kolodin wrote to the ASU CRU on Twitter." [Arizona Capitol Times, [7/10/23](#)]

2024: Kolodin objected to displaying a statue of Sandra Day O'Connor in the U.S. Capitol. "Lawmakers rejected a plan to commission a statue of Arizona icon Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, and display it in the U.S. Capitol building, with conservatives saying that the idea of honoring O'Connor, a moderate Republican, was offensive. 'We cannot allow the distinguished members of this body to have to suffer walking by such an undistinguished jurist when they enter here in the morning,' Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, said. The statue would not have been placed at the Arizona Capitol, but instead inside Statuary Hall in the nation's Capitol in Washington, D.C. Kolodin said that O'Connor, who was the first female majority leader in the nation while she served in the Arizona Senate, was a good lawmaker but an awful Supreme Court justice. He specifically took offense with O'Connor's rulings on abortion and affirmative action." [Arizona Mirror, [2/29/24](#)]

2024: Kolodin called for the defeat of Republicans who voted to repeal Arizona's abortion ban. "The Arizona House on Wednesday voted to repeal the state's 1864 abortion ban, as three Republicans sided with Democrats to roll over their colleagues and kill the 160-year-old law. Republicans should have been thanking the defectors, who likely offered pro-life supporters their best (only?) chance of defeating an initiative to enshrine abortion rights into the state constitution this fall. [...] Gress, the GOP ringleader for repeal, was immediately sent to the doghouse by House Speaker Ben Toma, who relieved him of his seat on the House Appropriations Committee. Kolodin quickly called for his defeat later this year, which is no small thing when you consider that Republicans have just a one-vote margin in each chamber. 'Rep. Gress voted today to legalize abortion till birth. Only @pamelacarter888 deserves LD4's vote,' Kolodin posted on social media. 'Republican is more than a name.'" [Laurie Roberts Column, Arizona Republic, [4/24/24](#)]

2024: Kolodin joined with Democrats to oppose a Republican budget that he called a "train wreck." "The budget passed on a 34-21 vote in the House and, within a half-hour, on a 17-12 vote in the

Senate. In both chambers, members of the conservative Freedom Caucus often joined Democratic leadership and the caucus' liberal wing in opposition. Support came from Republican leaders and rank-and-file members of both parties. Freedom Caucus members — including Reps. Alexander Kolodin, Barbara Parker, Austin Smith and Rachel Jones — repeatedly raised process concerns, noting lawmakers were being asked to vote on legislation before they had time to read it. After consistently railing against the budget bills as lawmakers deliberated, Kolodin called both the budget and the process ‘a train wreck’ that ‘bastardized the way that the legislative process is supposed to work.’ ‘Many of my colleagues on this side of the aisle think that Katie Hobbs is not particularly bright,’ Kolodin said. ‘But today she has certainly outplayed us, because she's playing the long game.’” [Arizona Republic, [6/14/24](#)]

2025: Arizona Republic: “Kolodin is one of the more outspoken members of the House and does not always vote in lockstep with the Republican majority.” “Kolodin is a second term lawmaker, representing Legislative District 3 in the northeast Valley. Kolodin is the vice-chairman of the Regulatory Oversight Committee in the Arizona House of Representatives and the sponsor of a wide range of bills, from a proposal to institute the firing squad as Arizona's method of capital punishment to numerous election-related bills. He also helped broker a resolution to a water shortage in Rio Verde, an unincorporated residential area in his district that was literally running out of water. Kolodin is one of the more outspoken members of the House and does not always vote in lockstep with the Republican majority.” [Arizona Republic, [6/14/24](#)]

2025: Kolodin raged at Republican leaders for negotiating a budget deal with Governor Katie Hobbs. “Color the Freedom Caucus purple with apoplexy that Senate GOP leaders would dare to negotiate with Hobbs. ‘Today the @AZSenateGOP submitted to Katie Hobbs and passed a budget handing Arizona to the radical left on a silver platter ... ,’ Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, raged on social media.” [Laurie Roberts Column, Arizona Republic, [6/21/25](#)]

- **Kolodin said anyone who supports the Senate Republican budget “will be an enemy of the people of Arizona.”** “And Rep. Alexander Kolodin, who voted for the continuation budget, has his own theory about all this. The Scottsdale Republican said he expects that the Senate, which is set to vote on what the House just passed on Wednesday, will approve it and send it to the governor who will veto it. And at that point supporters of the \$17.6 billion spending plan will raise the specter of a government shutdown, say there's not time left to negotiate something else, and ‘jam the disastrous Senate budget ... down our throats.’ Kolodin also launched into an intraparty attack, saying anyone who supports the Senate budget ‘will be an enemy of the people of Arizona.’” [Arizona Capitol Times, [6/24/25](#)]

2025: Kolodin was attacked by other Republicans for being the only vote in the House against a bill to criminalize “stolen valor.” “Whenever there’s a contrarian vote to be cast, there’s a good chance GOP state Rep. Alexander Kolodin is the one casting it. Wednesday afternoon, Kolodin’s iconoclastic streak earned a booming, passionate lecture from fellow Republican state Rep. Walt Blackman on the floor of the Arizona House of Representatives. At issue is Blackman’s bill to criminalize stolen valor, which is the practice of exaggerating or fabricating military service for personal gain. It has already been the subject of intra-party controversy. [...] That precipitated Wednesday’s vote. Despite having voted for the first iteration of the bill, this time Kolodin voted no. The bill passed 54-1. ‘This bill, for the first time in Arizona law, makes lying in the context of an election a criminal offense. Now, who decides whether a politician is lying?’ Kolodin asked the chamber while explaining his vote. ‘In this country, we’ve had a historical tradition that says the power is in the hands of the people. The voters get to say whether someone is lying or not.’ Kolodin’s reasoning clearly did not sit well with Blackman, who responded with a thunderous fury. [...] Blackman then tore into Kolodin, who is not a veteran. ‘When you say no,

you are saying no to over a million people that have put their lives on the line – half a million veterans in this state,’ Blackman said, his voice getting louder. ‘You are saying, ‘I don’t care – I don’t care that you died or had friends that died. I don’t care.’ It’s about the rule of law!’” [Phoenix New Times, [4/9/25](#)]

2026: Kolodin slammed Senate Republicans for refusing to support his bill to make it harder to vote by mail. “A Republican state legislator who portrays himself as the election-reform champion that voters demanded — and hopes to be the state’s top elections officer — has had it with Republicans in the Arizona Senate who think his early voting resolution needs amending. Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, loudly and scathingly took Senate Republicans to task on Monday before the state House of Representatives voted along party lines to pass his House Concurrent Resolution 2001, which would make it much harder to vote by mail in the Grand Canyon State. ‘For two years, certain Republicans in the Senate have played a game of cat-and-mouse in bad faith, requesting an ever-changing list of demands and begging us to chase the ball,’ Kolodin said on the House floor. ‘Today, this body says, ‘No more.’ The House will deliver for the people of Arizona, and if recalcitrant members of the majority in the Senate do not wish to do so, then let them stand up and let their votes be counted.’ A member of the far-right Arizona Freedom Caucus, Kolodin has been pushing to make the state’s elections more like Florida’s for more than a year now, claiming that an ‘overwhelming’ majority of voters are willing to trade convenience — specifically by making it more difficult for people to vote by mail — for faster results. But where the evidence supporting that claim came from remains a mystery, since Kolodin has repeatedly refused to share not just the poll he’s citing, but even what entity conducted the poll.” [Arizona Mirror, [2/9/26](#)]

SOS CAMPAIGN

March 2025: Kolodin launched his campaign for Secretary of State under the Arizona Freedom Caucus banner. “Republican Alexander Kolodin is running for Arizona secretary of state, promising to restore voter confidence in elections, which he says is waning. In a March 31 announcement, Kolodin criticized Adrian Fontes, a Democrat and the current secretary of state, for being a hyper-partisan. At his state Capitol event, he mocked Fontes' stance that President Donald Trump is trying to cancel elections. ‘President Donald Trump is not going to cancel the 2026 election,’ Kolodin said, as supporters chuckled at the notion. Kolodin is running under the banner of the Arizona Freedom Caucus, which is supporting Congressman Andy Biggs for governor in 2026. The caucus represents the farther right reaches of the state COP.” [Arizona Republic, [3/31/25](#)]

Kolodin’s campaign announcement video fabricated an endorsement from Gina Swoboda – who is considering running against Kolodin. “The video starts boldly. Seen first only by his feet, GOP state Rep. Alexander Kolodin strides confidently away from the Arizona Capitol. As the camera swings in front of him, the Scottsdale Republican announces that he’ll be answering the call to run for Arizona Secretary of State in 2026. The second-term lawmaker says he was beckoned into the race by a litany of stakeholders – President Donald Trump, Arizona Republican Party Chair Gina Swoboda, the nebulous ‘future of Arizona’ – so that he could boot Democrat Adrian Fontes from office and fix Arizona’s elections. ‘Arizona elections continue to be a laughing stock under Fontes. Voter confidence is at historic lows,’ Kolodin wrote in a separate tweet. ‘I’m running for Secretary of State to restore transparency, honesty, security, and lawfulness to our elections.’ Unfortunately, like so much about Kolodin and how Arizonans vote, his big campaign announcement has some trouble with the facts. In bold text, Kolodin’s video claims he was endorsed by Swoboda, whom Trump has credited with helping swing Arizona red in 2024. The video also includes audio and video clips of Swoboda singing Kolodin’s praises. ‘Alex Kolodin is going to run for SOS, and I think Alex is amazing,’ Swoboda can be heard saying. It’s immediately followed by a video of Swoboda telling Kolodin, ‘I’d be proud to endorse you, Alex.’”

Despite those clips, Swoboda told Phoenix New Times hasn't endorsed him and might actually run against him." [Phoenix New Times, [3/31/25](#)]

- **February 2026: Kolodin said he wasn't concerned about the prospect of a primary after Swoboda filed a "statement of interest" in the Secretary of State race.** "A potentially heated race is shaping up among Republicans who want to take on incumbent Democratic Arizona Secretary of State Adrian Fontes. Gina Swoboda, who just stepped down as chair of the Arizona Republican Party, filed a 'statement of interest' Tuesday to be the GOP nominee to become the state's chief elections officer. That filing allows Swoboda to begin gathering signatures to have her name on the Aug. 4 GOP primary ballot. But whether Swoboda intends to take on state Rep. Alexander Kolodin remains in question. 'Exploring my options,' she said in a statement to Capitol Media Services. 'Elections has always been a passion for me,' Swoboda said. 'I love that office.' [...] Kolodin, for his part, dismissed the possibility of having to wage a primary race. He even said that Swoboda, before her latest move, endorsed his bid for secretary of state. 'I'm the most qualified candidate in the race, and the voters know it,' Kolodin told Capitol Media Services. And he said there's a good reason for her not to abandon her congressional bid. 'Gina should focus on her CD 1 primary so that she isn't the reason Republicans lose the (U.S.) House majority,' Kolodin said." [Arizona Capitol Times, [2/3/26](#)]

Kolodin said he is running for Secretary of State to restore trust in the system. "Then there's Kolodin saying he is running to restore public trust in the system. 'When people stop believing that their voice matters or that the process is fair, when they see our election laws being broken and manipulated at will, participation drops, division rises, and democracy stops working the way it's supposed to,' Kolodin said. But he would not say whether he and other Republicans have played a role in that eroded public confidence." [Arizona Daily Star, [3/31/25](#)]

Kolodin said the 2024 election was "about saving our republic" and his campaign for Secretary of State is "about saving something even more precious to me and that is my state." "Alex Kolodin, an election attorney and candidate for Arizona Secretary of State, highlighted his extensive experience in election law and his commitment to election integrity. He recounted his successful legal battles against election irregularities, his efforts to restore voter confidence, and address election issues in Arizona, including a lawsuit against Adrian Fontes for attempting to rewrite election laws. He emphasized the need for transparency and adherence to the law. Right now, he's representing Arizona's 3rd Legislative District, which consists of a portion of Maricopa County. It includes areas like north Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Cave Creek, Carefree, Anthem, New River, and Desert Hills. 'Now look, 2024 was about saving our republic. Okay, this election coming up is about saving something even more precious to me, and that is my state. That is Arizona. This is our time to take it back,' Kolodin told the audience. 'You deserve a Secretary of State who understands that trust is not given. Trust is earned, and that transparency and the third reason I'm running against Mr. Fontes is the simplest of all, you deserve a Secretary of State who could just follow the dang law,' he added." [Cochise County Herald-Review, [6/23/25](#)]

Kolodin touts praise from Donald Trump and his record of election lawsuits on his campaign website. "Alex has been practicing election law in Arizona for over a decade. In 2014, as a rookie lawyer, Alex litigated one of the first cases that established that election-related metadata stored on central count computers was a public record. In 2020, Adrian Fontes tried to give an illegal instruction to every person who voted by mail in Maricopa County. Alex took him to the Arizona Supreme Court and not only won the case, but won the right for every Arizona voter to challenge unlawful acts by elections officials. In 2024, when Adrian Fontes refused to comply with his obligations under the National Voter Registration Act, Alex took him to court and won again. It was this track record that won

Alex recognition from President Trump, who called him ‘A hell of an attorney’ and a ‘patriot!’” [Alex for Arizona, [accessed 3/15/26](#)]

October 2025: Kolodin trailed Adrian Fontes in fundraising. “In the race for secretary of state, incumbent Adrian Fontes raised \$244,300 this quarter for a total of \$545,800 this cycle, outpacing by far Republican challenger, state Rep. Alexander Kolodin, who raised only \$90,500 in the quarter for a total of \$192,350 and nearly \$203,000 in cash on hand, including a \$95,000 loan from Kolodin to his campaign.” [Arizona Mirror, [10/18/25](#)]

PHILOSOPHY

Kolodin is a member of the far-right Freedom Caucus. “Kolodin, who was first elected to represent Scottsdale in 2022, is an election denier and a member of the far-right Arizona Freedom Caucus.” [Arizona Mirror, [3/31/25](#)]

Kolodin is “closely aligned” with Turning Point USA. “Alex Kolodin, a Republican state lawmaker in Arizona who is closely aligned with the group, said he is confident Kirk's widow will hold the movement together. ‘She's not going to let anyone break up her husband's legacy,’ Kolodin said. He said Turning Point would not be what it is today without Kirk's ‘genius,’ but said Kirk had inspired a generation of young conservatives who are social media savvy and know how to engage their generation. Kolodin predicted that some of them will rise to the moment and make sure Kirk's death doesn't leave a void in the online spaces where young people congregate. ‘I wouldn't be surprised if the next big thing in that direction were a couple of guys no one has heard of,’ Kolodin said. ‘That's actually one reason I'm optimistic about the future of this.’” [Associated Press, [9/18/25](#)]

2025: Kolodin was the only state legislator to appear at an event sponsored by Republicans for National Renewal, a group with neo-Nazi ties. “Multiple Arizona Republicans are scheduled to participate in an event alongside Republicans for National Renewal, a far-right organization whose grassroots director and founder is an administrator of a Telegram chat that includes self-identified neo-Nazis. But some of those Grand Canyon State Republicans said they were unaware of the details of the event, that their names were included in promotions for it or of the associations of the Republicans for National Renewal. [...] Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, was the only lawmaker listed as a speaker at the event and similarly did not respond to a request for comment. Kolodin, who is running for Secretary of State in 2026, has worked with the group in the past.” [Arizona Mirror, [12/8/25](#)]

Secretary of Steve Adrian Fontes

2025: Phillips called Secretary of State Steve Simon a “corrupt self-appointed king.” “The Minnesota Supreme Court is set to hear opening arguments at 1 p.m. today to determine if the Minnesota House is controlled by We The People-elected Representatives or a corrupt self-appointed king, SOS Steve Simon. At the end of the November election, House Republicans and Democrats found themselves in a 67-67 tie. But due to a dispute over a candidate's residency, Dems lost a member leaving the House with a 67-66 Republican majority. While desperate Dems claim that the House cannot convene with fewer than the usual 68 members, Republicans maintain that because of the empty seat the House membership is at 133 making the threshold for the meeting rule 67. In the January 15 session, 67 Republicans convened the House and made a series of motions and nominations to reinforce their legal standing. In a counter-move, the DFL filed petitions with the highest court seeking to have the Republican moves nullified and any further action blocked until the House convenes with 68 members present.” [Action 4 Liberty, [1/23/25](#)]

Phillips: Back in 2020, SOS Steve Simon “single-handedly decided to extend the deadline for absentee ballots allowing them to be accepted and counted until one week AFTER election day. Fortunately, the unscrupulous SOS was later slapped down by the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals who had to override his subversion of Democracy...” “Although it is customary at this point in time for the MN Secretary of State to swear in legislators, Hortman is pushing to have her Democrat buddy, Steve Simon, shirk his nonpartisan responsibilities by holding the legislature hostage and declaring that there is no quorum unless a 68 member threshold is reached, effectively shutting down the legislature. That’s right. To accomplish this, and bury the Democrats' questionable tactics in elections, Hortman is demanding Secretary Steve Simon to declare the legislature closed for the Democrats. These are the clowns that try to claim they are for democracy. Considering what he has done in the past, Simon torpedoing a quorum is no big deal. Just look at what he tried to pull off in the consent decree in 2020. Back in 2020, Steve Simon single-handedly decided to extend the deadline for absentee ballots allowing them to be accepted and counted until one week AFTER election day. Fortunately, the unscrupulous SOS was later slapped down by the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals who had to override his subversion of Democracy, calling it unconstitutional and requiring him to follow state law by only counting ballots that came in by the end of election day in 2020.” [Action 4 Liberty, [1/9/25](#)]

Attorney General Kris Mayes

2024: Kolodin supported impeaching Arizona AG Kris Mayes. “Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, said he is generally reticent to pursue such moves. ‘I don’t vote to take somebody out of office because of their political party, because I disagree with them, because I find them obnoxious or offensive,’ he said. But this, said Kolodin, is different. ‘What I do vote to take them out of office for is undermining our constitution in this extreme of a way where she's weaponized her office and she's turned it into a tool of political persecution,’ he said.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [6/14/24](#)]

2025: Kolodin sponsored legislation to limit the ability of AG Mayes to bring charges related to election issues. “A last-minute provision dropped into the House version of the state budget seeks to trim the ability of Attorney General Kris Mayes to bring legal charges against anyone related to election issues. The language crafted by Rep. Alexander Kolodin would require prosecutors to get permission from both the House and Senate judiciary committees before filing any election-related lawsuit if a judge in any other case had said there was at least ‘prima facie’ evidence they had violated the state's anti-SLAPP law, short for Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation statutes. This law is designed to prevent public officials from using the courts to punish and prevent speech on political issues. What the Scottsdale Republican is proposing is not occurring in a vacuum. In February, Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Sam Myers ruled that the remaining 16 defendants in the ‘fake electors’ case being prosecuted by Mayes, a Democrat, have provided that prima facie evidence, demonstrating to him that the indictments against them appear to attack what is ‘at least in part some arguably lawful speech.’ Mayes, rather than proceeding with the case, has instead appealed Myers' ruling. It is unclear whether the provision Kolodin got inserted into the budget, if it becomes law, would have any effect on the ongoing electors case and would force Mayes to now get legislative approval to pursue the charges of fraud and conspiracy against the defendants. But it definitely would hobble Mayes – and any county prosecutor, as the measure also would apply to them – in filing future cases.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [6/16/25](#)]

- **Kolodin: “Ending the tyrannical weaponization of government that manifests its ugliness in the form of political prosecutions is a matter of critical importance to the foundation and future of our republic.”** “Kolodin acknowledged he worked to get the provision into the budget on behalf of the Arizona Freedom Caucus, of which he is a member. These are considered the

most conservative of Republican lawmakers at the Capitol, including one who is a defendant in this case. And Kolodin said the legislation, which still needs approval by the Senate and the signature of Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs, is justified. ‘Ending the tyrannical weaponization of government that manifests its ugliness in the form of political prosecutions is a matter of critical importance to the foundation and future of our republic,’ he told Capitol Media Services. Kolodin, who is running for secretary of state in next year's election, said the mechanics of his proposal are simple: If the majority Republicans who control the judiciary committees in either the House or Senate believe the attorney general or county attorney is ‘trampling’ the lawful exercise of constitutional rights, ‘then additional legislative oversight is necessary to prevent further abuses of power.’ And Kolodin made it clear who he thinks has been doing that. ‘Kris Mayes is a perfect example of why this provision is necessary since she has repeatedly engaged in hyper-partisan prosecution based on novel legal theories conjured up by Leftist activist organizations,’ he said.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [6/16/25](#)]

2023: Kolodin proposed eliminating the Attorney General’s “election fraud unit” after Kris Mayes was elected. “Every year since 2019, Arizona lawmakers have instructed the state’s attorney general to spend a half-million dollars to staff an ‘election fraud unit,’ with no further instructions. Democrats accused former Attorney General Mark Brnovich, a Republican, of using the unit for whatever was politically expedient, such as launching an investigation into Maricopa County’s 2020 election without ever making any final conclusions. Brnovich then hid findings that debunked claims of widespread fraud, according to documents first published Feb. 22 by the Washington Post. Now, Republicans are making a similar complaint, after new Attorney General Kris Mayes, a Democrat, announced she will use the unit to combat voter suppression, to protect election officials from harassment, and even to protect vote-by-mail. [...] Republican state Rep. Alexander Kolodin, vice chair of the House elections committee, says that mission equates to ‘prosecuting conservatives for engaging in constitutionally protected First Amendment activities,’ such as questioning election officials and procedures. The funding for the unit remains in the initial budgets proposed by Republican lawmakers and by Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs. But Kolodin said he is trying to gather support to eliminate the unit.” [Arizona Mirror, [2/23/23](#)]

Donald Trump

February 2024: Kolodin opposed a bill that would give Arizona’s electoral votes to Donald Trump before the election. “A plan by a first-term Tucson lawmaker to have Arizona give its 11 electoral votes to Donald Trump even before the November election has blown up after even some Republican colleagues found it unacceptable. [...] Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, said he agrees that state lawmakers do have the authority under the U.S. Constitution to appoint electors. But Kolodin, who also is an attorney - and has represented GOP interests in election cases - said the U.S. Supreme Court has said that authority exists only to the extent that Arizona follows the procedures in its own constitution for enacting legislation. And what that means, he said, is scrapping the current procedure where the popular vote determines who gets the electors in favor of letting lawmakers do that first requires a measure that either is approved by the governor or the people in a popular vote. ‘This resolution, it doesn’t follow those procedures,’ Kolodin said of HCR 2055, but is simply a vote by the Legislature. And that, he said, means it can’t be effective given the Supreme Court precedent. Even if the courts bought the argument that lawmakers can wrest the power to choose electors back from voters, Kolodin said there’s a political consideration to all of this. ‘Wouldn’t we be guilty of exactly what we accuse the other side of doing, stealing an election?’ he asked. ‘We would literally be saying we’re going to pre-appoint the nominees to our party’s electors without actually running an election,’ Kolodin said. ‘Wouldn’t that be just as bad as what we imagine what they might be doing?’” [Arizona Daily Star, [2/15/24](#)]

July 2024: Kolodin accused an unnamed “them” of trying to kill Trump. “The shooting Saturday at a rally of former President Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee for president, provoked an outpouring of support from across the political spectrum in Arizona as well as some accusations about motives that were issued Saturday before there was any public information about the shooter or his motives. [...] Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale: ‘So they really are going to try to kill him. That would be a mistake ... on their part.’” [Arizona Daily Star, [7/14/24](#)]

July 2024: Kolodin said Democrats could no longer talk about January 6 after “you literally tried to shoot our president.” “During an interview Wednesday with reporter Amy Goodman for left-leaning Democracy Now!, the first-term legislator let loose with the crazy at the Republican National Convention. Kolodin was expounding on his opinion of Nikki Haley (‘poison within the blood of the Republican Party’) when Goodman asked his opinion about what happened on Jan. 6, 2021, the day Trump supporters stormed the nation’s Capitol to try to stop certification of the 2020 presidential vote. That’s when he asked for whom she worked. ‘Ooooooh ...,’ he said, when she told him. ‘I think that you guys have lost your privileges to talk about Jan. 6th after you tried to assassinate our president. I’ll leave it at that,’ Kolodin said. ‘Excuse me?’ Goodman asked. ‘You guys. You Democrats have lost your privileges to go on and on and on – I know who Democracy Now! is – to go on and on and on and on about Jan. 6 when you literally tried to shoot our president, right?’ Kolodin replied. ‘First, you tried to throw him in jail. Then you called him a fascist. Then you literally tried to strip Secret Service protection from him and then you tried to use the deep state to kill the guy. So yeah, you’ve lost your privileges to talk about Jan. 6.’” [Laurie Roberts Column, Arizona Republic, [7/19/24](#)]

- **Kolodin suggested that the Biden administration attempted to assassinate Trump.** “Lest you think Kolodin has had second thoughts about his unhinged rant, think again. When Republican political strategist Tyler Montague called him out Thursday on social media, asking why he wouldn’t await facts before accusing Democrats of trying to murder the former and likely future president, Kolodin doubled down on the delirium. ‘C’mon man, you aren’t credulous enough to believe that a 20 year old with no training managed to get on the nearest roof to the President and point a rifle at him for two minutes right in the open without that being an inside job,’ Kolodin wrote. ‘I believe the government has enormous capacity for incompetence,’ Montague replied. ‘That’s the beginning and end of the story as far as government involvement goes. No freaking way that was a coordinated attempt. That’s crazy talk. It will be interesting to see if anyone worked him.’ Kolodin clapped back: ‘You’re telling me the same government that tried to kill Castro with an exploding cigar and also tried to send Trump to jail right before the general election wouldn’t *dare* try to take a crack at him? I find that implausible.’” [Laurie Roberts Column, Arizona Republic, [7/19/24](#)]

March 2025: Kolodin refused to say whether Donald Trump was acting illegally by telling states they must demand proof of citizenship from all voters. “A state lawmaker who wants to be the state’s chief elections officer refused to say Monday whether he believes President Trump is acting illegally in telling states they have to demand proof of citizenship from all voters. In a news conference to announce his candidacy, Alexander Kolodin promised transparency if he is elected secretary of state in 2026. And he accused incumbent Democrat Adrian Fontes of ignoring election laws. But he would not address whether a federal law created by Congress, which allows for voting in federal elections without such proof, precludes what the president has ordered. Instead, he turned the issue into a criticism of Fontes for problems that resulted last election when questions were raised about who had, and had not, provided such citizenship proof. Kolodin, who said in his speech his campaign was about ‘rebuilding trust’ in the election system, also sidestepped a question about whether Republicans, who raised claims of election fraud in several past elections, were responsible for that lack of trust.” [Arizona Daily Star, [3/31/25](#)]

2024 Election Reform Bill

January 2025: Kolodin was named chair of the House Ad Hoc Committee on Election Integrity and Florida-Style Voting Systems. “Republicans in the Arizona House have created a new committee that will take a comprehensive look at how the state’s elections are run, another sign that the state’s debate over election policy didn’t end with the 2024 election. GOP state Rep. Alex Kolodin will lead a panel called the House Ad Hoc Committee on Election Integrity and Florida-Style Voting Systems, according to an announcement Thursday, ahead of the Monday start of the new legislative session. Republicans have been saying for months that they want the state’s elections to be run more like Florida’s. Kolodin said he believes that means quicker election results, cleaner voter rolls, and better security for mail-in ballots. But it’s already clear that not everyone will agree on the changes, or that such changes would make the state’s elections better. [...] Kolodin said he hopes the ad hoc committee will provide a space for detailed policy discussion on how to improve elections. Asked if it would also be a forum for proponents of conspiracy theories about elections, Kolodin said he is hoping it is a ‘really technically focused committee.’ ‘If you’re looking for a good show, this is not going to be a committee for a good show,’ he said.” [Arizona Mirror, [1/10/25](#)]

February 2024: Kolodin sponsored legislation to fix election deadline laws and codify signature verification rules. “On a party-line vote, two legislative panels approved a series of changes in election laws Tuesday Republicans say are needed to ensure Arizonans are not disenfranchised. But even Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, one of the chief architects of the plan, acknowledged that, legally speaking, a provision to enshrine standards for checking signatures on early ballots into state law is not necessary to fix the election deadline problem at hand. He said it is politically necessary for Republicans. They worry what will happen when county election officials face new deadlines to comply with a new state law that likely will mean more automatic recounts, and a federal law giving states less time to get results of the presidential race to Congress. ‘When you compress timelines, you’re giving people less time to perform every stage of the process,’ said Kolodin. ‘And one way that people who have some sort of quota to meet or people who have to get a certain thing done by a certain time might do that is by taking short cuts.’ The way he figures it, codifying into law the rules, which the Secretary of State’s Office already requires election officials to follow in verifying signatures, sends a message. ‘We’re saving time in this bill in a lot of ways,’ Kolodin said. ‘But one way we can’t allow time to be saved in this bill is to rush the signature verification process.’ He only by putting it into law, and attaching penalties, can there be an assurance corners won’t be cut. ‘Otherwise the entire bill would potentially make our signature verification process less secure,’ said Kolodin.” [Arizona Daily Star, [2/6/24](#)]

- **Kolodin called the bill “real, solid election integrity reform.”** “The version enacted gives GOP lawmakers several big things they sought. One enshrines into state law the standards that county election officials must use when verifying the signatures on early ballots. That does exist now -- but only in guidance by the Secretary of State’s Office. And that is subject to change. ‘That is a major priority of our grassroots,’ Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, one of the lead negotiators, told his Republican colleagues. ‘That is real, solid election integrity reform.’ [...] Kolodin acknowledged that the package doesn’t contain everything that many rank-and-file Republicans said they wanted. Many of them complained that GOP lawmakers ‘did not use leverage in order to get election integrity signed into law,’ he said. But Kolodin told his

Republican colleagues it can't all be blamed on the Democrats and on Hobbs, who vetoed many election-related bills last year. He said they need to look in a mirror. 'We have acted like crabs in a bucket, letting the perfect be the enemy of the good, tearing down real attempts at election reform,' Kolodin said. 'We've done it to ourselves. But that ends today.' While not perfect, Kolodin said, the bill the Republican-controlled Legislature put on Hobbs' desk is 'what our voters put us here to do.'" [Arizona Daily Star, [2/8/24](#)]

April 2024: Kolodin insisted that his legislation “absolutely f*ing requires” a hand count of mail ballots on site at their drop-off location.** “Poll workers in Pinal County will do an on-site count of how many mail ballots are dropped off at their voting locations on election day, but there's debate among election officials and lawmakers over whether a new law requires them to do it at the polling place. [...] Told about the various interpretations of the law on April 3, Kolodin told Votebeat that's not the correct reading of the law. 'It absolutely f***ing requires a hard count at the polling site,' he wrote in a text message. The letter Kolodin and Rogers sent to election officials on April 4 said the law requires the counting to happen 'on the spot at the voting location' and emphasized there needs to be a count from each location, not just a total count.” [Votebeat, [4/12/24](#)]

August 2024: Koldin’s legislation led to reporting days during the 2024 primary. “Chatter from election officials, journalists and temporary workers filled the halls of Maricopa County's election headquarters as the first results from Tuesday's primary dropped about 8 p.m. on election night. Hours later, that buzzing excitement had given way to a cautious wait. Some races, including key congressional primaries and a high-profile GOP faceoff for the county recorder's seat, remained too close to call. Meanwhile, county officials had released just one additional round of results — a small batch of a few thousand election day ballots from areas of downtown and central Phoenix geographically close to the election facility. Tallies from the polls wouldn't be fully reported until 1:15 a.m. Wednesday, about an hour behind election night results in the higher-turnout 2022 midterms primary. The wait affirmed fears officials in Arizona's most populous county have harbored for months: A new state law that was designed to hasten full unofficial results actually delayed publication of election night returns. The new statute was created in reaction to another recent law that requires recounts in races with wider margins than had been required before, which in turn created fears that more recounts could disrupt the state's election certification schedule. Getting it through the Arizona Legislature this spring required compromises from election officials — including one that stipulates counties must count the number of early ballot envelopes received at each of their voting sites and report those figures to the public on election night. That counting process delayed the return of election day tallies to Maricopa County election headquarters.” [Arizona Republic, [8/1/24](#)]

- **Kolodin acknowledged the hand count requirement delayed some expected ballot drops on election night, but claimed the delay was offset by other provisions in the law.** “The new law's intent was to improve transparency amid skepticism of election returns and to speed election results for a public grown weary of waiting days, sometimes even weeks, for final tallies. It produced faster results in the primary compared with past election cycles, said Rep. Alexander Kolodin, a Scottsdale Republican who helped craft the legislation. 'There's not a major race that remains uncalled,' Kolodin said Wednesday, 17 hours after the polls closed. While none of the myriad races on the ballot have been officially decided, results in a few key races such as the Republican U.S. Senate contest, the GOP Maricopa County recorder's faceoff and the Democratic Maricopa County sheriff's contest became clear late on election night. But others, including Democratic primaries in Arizona's 1st and 3rd congressional districts, were still too close to call as of Thursday. Those squeaker races are farther down the ballot. But in November top-of-the-ticket contests, including the presidential race, could be decided by a hair.

Kolodin acknowledged the hand count requirement delayed some expected ballot drops on election night. But, he argued, the delay was offset by other provisions in the law. They included a requirement that election officials process and count early ballots as they arrived at election offices, and mandated they tabulate all election day results until finished, rather than breaking for the night and resuming the work Wednesday morning. ‘The net gain is faster results,’ he said.” [Arizona Republic, [8/1/24](#)]

October 2024: Kolodin said that reporting delays because of his election reform bill would “give voters more time to drink a toast to the improved security of the election system.” “Results from ballots cast at Maricopa County’s Election Day polling places will be delayed due to a Republican-backed change in state law, a lag that could fuel false claims as the nation awaits the outcome of the presidential race. [...] Hearing that the requirement will delay results on election night, Republican state Rep. Alex Kolodin, who led his party’s advocacy for the measure, said, ‘this small delay will give voters more time to drink a toast to the improved security of the election system.’” [Arizona Mirror, [10/30/24](#)]

November 2024: Kolodin credited his legislation and lawsuits for a smoothly run 2024 election. “This election ran smoothly because of the legislation and proactive lawsuits from the conservative movement, argued Arizona state Rep. Alexander Kolodin, a Republican who was sanctioned by the State Bar of Arizona for his role in challenging the 2020 election. ‘Look, there were a lot of vulnerabilities still, but it was a more secure election than the ones we’ve had in the past,’ he said in an interview. Kolodin introduced legislation this year to keep vote centers open longer and give voters more notice to fix signature or date errors on their absentee ballots, among other provisions. Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs signed it in February. He expects Trump to keep election integrity in the public consciousness and continue to pressure conservatives to work on it. For his part, Kolodin will push to scrap Arizona’s larger vote centers and opt for precinct-level polling places for better efficiency.” [Stateline, [11/8/24](#)]

April 2023: Kolodin was open to working with Democratic Secretary of State Adrian Fontes on election-related legislation. “Fontes has also lent his support to election-related legislation, such as a proposal from Sen. Ken Bennett, R-Prescott, to make ballot images public. Rep. Alexander Kolodin, whose election bills have reflected a skepticism of how the current system works, said he asked Fontes for advice on a bill to make it easier for people in detention to vote. ‘Where there is common ground, I’ll work with anybody,’ said Kolodin, R-Scottsdale. ‘It seems he’s working the same way.’” [Arizona Republic, [4/16/23](#)]

Ballot Drop Boxes

2022: Kolodin represented Melody Jennings and Clean Elections USA in a suit alleging that the group’s ballot box watching activities amounted to voter intimidation. “The Justice Department on Monday indicated support of an Arizona lawsuit accusing groups monitoring ballot drop boxes of illegal voter intimidation. The DOJ described filming or harassing voters as examples of “vigilante ballot security measures,” suggesting those behaviors violate the federal Voting Rights Act. In its complaint filed Oct. 25, the League of Women Voters claims that organized efforts to monitor voters, sometimes carrying firearms or wearing military tactical gear, is a ‘scheme’ that undermines voters’ rights to cast ballots free of intimidation, threat or coercion. The civics group also claims the defendants are affiliated with the Oath Keepers, a right-wing militia group on trial in a D.C. federal court for seditious conspiracy in relation to the Jan. 6 Capitol attack. Attorneys for Oklahoma resident Melody Jennings, the founder of the conservative Clean Elections USA group that has organized at least some drop box monitoring, have said the proposed injunctions in both suits are too broad and would infringe on the observers’ First

Amendment rights. ‘Our clients have a right to film and photograph, especially in areas that are on the street or public buildings,’ said attorney Alexander Kolodin at Monday’s status hearing. ‘These are not places where individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy.’ [USA Today, [11/1/22](#)]

- **A federal judge curtailed Clean Elections USA’s activities near ballot drop boxes.** “A federal judge in Arizona has sharply curtailed the activities of an election-monitoring group in the vicinity of ballot boxes, including taking photos or videos of voters, openly carrying firearms, posting information about voters online, or spreading falsehoods about election laws. The group, Clean Elections USA, has the stated goal of preventing voter fraud by staking out ballot boxes to ensure that people don’t behave as ‘mules’ by illegally casting multiple ballots. In recent weeks, self-described ‘mule watchers’ — some armed — have gathered around outdoor ballot boxes in Maricopa County to take pictures of voters and, in some cases, post those images online. [...] Alexander Kolodin, a lawyer who represents both Clean Elections USA and Ms. Jennings, said in court that he would most likely appeal the latest ruling. Although Clean Elections USA had voluntarily agreed to the restrictions on weapons, as well as on talking to, yelling at, or otherwise confronting or following voters, he argued that the restrictions on photography, online posting and discussing Arizona voting laws infringed on free speech. Mr. Kolodin noted that a substantial press contingent had begun gathering near ballot boxes in Maricopa County over the past few weeks and that they had posted photos and videos of voters. ‘The Washington Post is intimidating voters,’ he said. With that in mind, he told the judge his clients were unfairly being singled out. ‘It seems like our clients are on trial for the entire state or anybody who wants to participate in ballot box monitoring or even share their views,’ Mr. Kolodin said.” [New York Times, [11/1/22](#)]
- **Kolodin: “Drop box monitors are fulfilling a useful function, they’re increasing the security of our elections.”** “Alexander Kolodin, co-counsel representing Clean Elections USA, said that the order prohibiting his client and those affiliated with the group from talking to voters about election law struck him as a First Amendment problem. So too, Kolodin said, was the part of the order prohibiting his client from filming within 75 feet of drop boxes. ‘So USA TODAY can go film somebody at a drop box, but not our clients,’ said Kolodin, who separately also serves as co-counsel for the Arizona Republican Party, which has no connection to the case. [...] As an Arizona Republican, Kolodin said he believes ‘drop box monitors are fulfilling a useful function, they’re increasing the security of our elections... It’s almost impossible to catch election fraud after the fact, so the state has an interest in preventing it from occurring in the first place.’” [USA Today, [11/7/22](#)]
- **May 2023: Clean Elections USA settled its suit and agreed to “publicly condemn intimidation of any kind in connection with the exercise of the right to vote.”** “An Arizona group that monitored ballot drop boxes for signs of fraud during the midterm elections has settled a lawsuit and agreed to ‘publicly condemn intimidation of any kind in connection with the exercise of the right to vote,’ according to a statement Sunday from the League of Women Voters of Arizona. The organization last October sued the group formerly known as Clean Elections USA and its founder, Melody Jennings, alleging the tactics of the group and its allies amounted to illegal voter intimidation. During the 2022 midterms, activists monitored ballot drop boxes and filmed people voting as they claimed to look for signs of fraud. [...] Alexander Kolodin, an attorney for Jennings and her group, said Sunday by phone that ‘both sides value and wish to protect freedom of speech and the right to free assembly while also condemning any sort of voter intimidation.’” [Washington Post, [5/21/23](#)]

Ballot Initiatives

2025: Kolodin sponsored legislation to raise the threshold for passing citizen-led ballot initiatives.

“Arizona lawmakers want to ask voters again to pare back their right to craft their own laws or change the constitution, continuing a series of proposed changes to citizens' rights to bypass the Legislature that have seen mixed results in recent elections. [...] A second measure approved on a voice vote on Feb. 26 would increase the percentage of votes needed to amend the state constitution from a majority to 60 percent of voters. Voters already increased the threshold for enacting a new fee or tax to 60 percent in the 2022 election. Both would be placed on the 2026 ballot if the House formally passed them and the Senate does the same. Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, is sponsoring the measure asking voters to boost the threshold for changing the constitution, saying the current standard makes it ‘trivially easy to change.’ He pointed to efforts by initiative backers to put their measures into the constitution rather than state law as one reason for his proposal. ‘I think that most voters would agree with me, a constitution should be of a more enduring nature’ he said.” [Arizona Daily Star, [2/26/25](#)]

Early and Absentee Voting

2020: Kolodin represented Arizona Public Integrity Alliance in attempt to force Maricopa County to stop allowing voters to correct mistakes in filling out their ballots.

“If you make a mistake while filling out your ballot, can you just cross it out? Yes, according to the instructions sent to Maricopa County voters for the August election. ‘Made a mistake? Cross out your mistake. Fill in the oval next to your corrected selection,’ reads the pamphlet sent to voters with their mail-in ballots. Arizona Public Integrity Alliance, a conservative political nonprofit, sent a cease and desist letter to Maricopa County Recorder Adrian Fontes demanding he stop including those instructions in voter pamphlets. [...] Alexander Kolodin, an attorney who ran unsuccessfully for the state Legislature during the August primary, sent the cease and desist letter on behalf of the Arizona Public Integrity Alliance and East Valley politico Tyler Montague. In the letter, Kolodin said the new instruction ‘increases the potential for fraud in our elections because anyone in the ballot's chain of custody can alter a vote in a way that is indistinguishable from an alteration made by the voter themselves.’ Kolodin said in an interview that anyone who touches a ballot after a voter puts it into the mail, from postal workers to elections workers, could hypothetically cross out a vote and mark a new vote for a different candidate. ‘At the very least, it gives the appearance that our elections are less secure,’ he said. Kolodin said that if a voter makes a mistake, the only way to cure that mistake should be to request a new ballot.” [Arizona Republic, 8/22/20]

- **Kolodin accused Maricopa County Recorder Adrian Fontes of “planned chaos” by allowing voters to correct mistakes.** “Kolodin is not asking that corrected ballots not be counted. That, he said, is a question for another day. In fact, he does not dispute that election officials can examine ballots to determine voter intent. But what he did seek from Smith is an injunction against the ballots being sent out with what he said is erroneous instructions. ‘What Fontes is planning is planned chaos,’ Kolodin said. ‘There's obviously a difference between handling a few mistake ballots, like if somebody spilled their coffee, and encouraging people to spoil their ballots which is going to lead to a much larger number,’ he said. And that, said Kolodin, is where the possibility of mischief comes in.” [Arizona Daily Star, [9/7/20](#)]

2022: Kolodin filed a suit directly with the Arizona Supreme Court seeking to end early and mail-in voting. “The Arizona Republican Party is trying to kill the preferred method of voting of more than 80% of state residents. Legal papers filed Friday ask the Arizona Supreme Court to conclude that there is nothing in the state constitution to allow for early voting. Attorney Alexander Kolodin told Capitol Media Services the only form of voting specifically authorized by the framers of the constitution

is in person and on Election Day. What that means, he said, is that anything else including the current system of no-excuse early ballots created by the legislature in 1991 is illegal. If the justices don't buy that argument, Kolodin has an alternate legal theory. He argues that, at the very least, the state is required to return to the way the situation was prior to 1991. That still allowed people to get early ballots, but also had to provide some proof they needed it, like being away from their voting precinct on Election Day or a physical disability. And Kolodin said that, at least, would provide more security over early ballots than the current system.” [KJZZ, [2/28/22](#)]

- **Kolodin’s suit also sought to ban ballot drop boxes.** “Kolodin also contends that if early voting is legal a point he disputes that still doesn't permit the use of ‘drop boxes’ for early ballots, something Hobbs has permitted in the Election Procedures Manual. He said state law provides for only two ways for early voters to transmit ballots for tabulation: delivering or mailing ‘to the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections,’ or depositing ‘at any polling place in the county.’ ‘A drop box is not an office of the county recorder, nor is it a ‘polling place,’” he is telling the justices. And Kolodin said none of this is helped by laws that allow county supervisors to authorize ‘voting centers.’ ‘Drop boxes are also not voting centers which, like polling places, are staffed so that a voter may present identification 'to receive the appropriate ballot for that voter on election day,'” he said. By contrast, Kolodin said, drop boxes are not staffed. And there's something else. Even assuming that the Arizona Constitution allows the legislature to authorize drop boxes, Kolodin said lawmakers have never enacted such a statute. ‘Thus, the secretary exceeds her legal authority by prescribing drop-box rules,’ he said.” [KJZZ, [2/28/22](#)]
- **Kolodin: “Because no-excuse mail-in voting is not exercised at the polls, it is unconstitutional.”** “‘The ordinary meaning of 'polls' is one of the places where the votes are cast at an election,’ Kolodin said. ‘Mail-in voting does not occur at a specific place designated by county boards (of supervisors) or a place with sufficient number of voting booths,’ he said. ‘Because no-excuse mail-in voting is not exercised at the polls, it is unconstitutional.’ And Kolodin said there's a good reason the Arizona Constitution requires people to cast their votes at polling places, alone, and in secret. ‘Mail-in ballots, by their very nature, cannot be made entirely secret or free from coercion,’ he said. ‘If bad actors wish to pay for votes or coerce electors to vote a certain way, there is nothing to stop them from standing over electors as they complete their ballots.’” [KJZZ, [2/28/22](#)]
- **April 2022: The Arizona Supreme Court declined to hear Kolodin’s suit attempting to end early and mail in voting.** “The Arizona Supreme Court declined Tuesday to consider a request by the Arizona Republican Party to eliminate the early voting system used by 90% of the state's voters and require nearly all voters to cast ballots in person on Election Day. The court ruled that the case did not meet the limited criteria for a lawsuit filed directly to the state's high court but said the GOP could take its case to Superior Court. The lawsuit filed in February argued absentee voting is unconstitutional and asked the justices to get rid of it or at least eliminate the no-excuse absentee balloting system Arizona adopted in 1991 and has steadily expanded ever since.” [Associated Press, [4/6/22](#)]

May 2022: Kolodin refiled a suit seeking to end early and mail voting in Arizona with the Mohave County Superior Court. “Rebuffed by the Arizona Supreme Court, the state Republican Party is making a new bid to sharply curtail who can cast a ballot by mail. But this time the GOP is lowering its goals, seeking to wipe out much but not all of early voting. Legal papers filed in Mohave County Superior Court contend the Arizona Constitution absolutely requires that ballots be cast in person and only on Election Day. Everything else, says attorney Alexander Kolodin, is illegal. He made pretty

much the same arguments earlier this year to the state's high court. But the justices rejected his bid to bypass the normal legal process and jump directly to them, telling him to make his case to a trial judge. [...] 'At the time Arizona's constitution was ratified, it was obvious to the Arizona Supreme Court that the plain meaning of 'the polls' did not include people's homes but rather meant designated polling places with voting booths and the like,' Kolodin wrote. He said the same logic about voting on initiatives also applies to voting on arguments. And if that argument doesn't sway the court, he pointed to another section of the state constitution which says that 'secrecy in voting shall be preserved.' Kolodin contends that can only happen if someone goes to a polling place, is handed a ballot by an election worker, fills it out, and then deposits it in an official box. That means the only people who get to handle and see that ballot are official election workers." [Arizona Daily Star, [5/18/22](#)]

- **June 2022: A superior court judge ruled against Kolodin's suit.** "There's nothing unconstitutional about Arizona's early voting law, a Mohave County judge determined Monday. The ruling, knocking down a lawsuit from the Republican Party of Arizona, is a win for the state's election officials and Arizona voters who use the early-voting system, a vast majority of the electorate. And it's another setback for the state party, which has argued the practice violates the Arizona Constitution's requirement for ballot secrecy. [...] The ruling is likely to be appealed. Alexander Kolodin, who represented the state GOP, suggested as much Monday. 'We recognize a ruling in our favor on the case is a lot to ask from a Superior Court judge,' Kolodin said, adding that asking a single judge to overturn an entire system is a hard sell. An appeal, which would go before a multi-judge panel at the state Court of Appeals or the state Supreme Court, is being 'carefully considered,' Kolodin said." [Arizona Republic, [6/6/22](#)]

December 2022: Kolodin argued before the Arizona Court of Appeals that early and mail voting is unconstitutional. "The state Republican Party is making a new bid to end the ability of most Arizonans to vote from the comfort of their own kitchen. At a hearing Wednesday, attorney Alexander Kolodin told the state Court of Appeals that the Arizona Constitution requires that all voting be done in a way to protect secrecy. Only thing is, he said, there is no way to ensure that people who have early ballots they can fill out anywhere have not sold their votes to someone else or been intimidated. The only way to do that, Kolodin said, is to have votes cast at an official polling place where government officials can watch to ensure that no one else is interfering as people fill out their ballots and drop them in tabulation machines or boxes." [Arizona Daily Star, [12/7/22](#)]

- **January 2023: The appeals court ruled against Kolodin.** "All Arizonans will continue to be able to vote by mail despite efforts by the state Republican Party to kill the practice. The state Court of Appeals on Tuesday rejected arguments by a lawyer for the GOP and Kelli Ward, its chair, that allowing people to vote from their own homes or anywhere other than a polling place violates a constitutional requirement for a secret ballot. Judge Cynthia Bailey, writing for the three-judge panel, said there are sufficient safeguards built into Arizona law to ensure that each voter's choices are kept confidential as the Arizona Constitution requires. Tuesday's ruling is unlikely to be the last word. Attorney Alexander Kolodin told Capitol Media Services the appellate judges got it wrong and he plans to seek Supreme Court review." [Arizona Daily Star, [1/17/23](#)]

February 2023: Kolodin petitioned the Arizona Supreme Court that early and mail voting was unconstitutional. "The Arizona Republican Party is making a last-ditch effort to get a court to do what lawmakers have so far refused: Kill on-demand early voting in the state. Attorney Alexander Kolodin is trying to get the state Supreme Court to rule that letting people fill out their ballots at their kitchen tables or anywhere else runs afoul of a constitutional provision that requires 'secrecy in voting shall be preserved.' Kolodin does not dispute that people voting from home have the ability to conceal their

choices from anyone else. But that, he said, is not enough. ‘The Legislature must also enact procedures by which voters are unable to mark their ballots in the presence of others even if individual voters desire to waive the secrecy of their own ballots,’ Kolodin told the justices. He made similar arguments to both a trial judge and, when that failed, to the state Court of Appeals which was no more sympathetic. Now, the state's high court is his only remaining remedy.” [Arizona Daily Star, [2/5/23](#)]

- **June 2023: The Arizona Supreme Court rejected Kolodin’s attempt to ban early and mail voting.** “Arizonans will be able to continue to vote early despite efforts by the Arizona Republican Party to have the practice declared illegal. The Arizona Supreme Court on Friday rejected arguments by Alexander Kolodin that allowing people to fill out their ballots at their kitchen tables or anywhere else runs afoul of a constitutional provision that requires "secrecy in voting shall be preserved." There was no explanation of the decision. But in refusing to consider the arguments Kolodin presented for the state GOP, the justices left intact an earlier decision by the state Court of Appeals that there are sufficient safeguards built into Arizona law to ensure that each voter's choices are kept confidential.” [KJZZ, [6/2/23](#)]

2025: Kolodin sponsored legislation to move up the deadline for dropping off early ballots.

“Republican lawmakers are wagering that Arizona voters care more about prompt election results than they do about being able to drop off their early ballots at the last minute. With Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs set to veto their legislation to move up ballot deadlines, the GOP lawmakers are now going to take their case to the public. They are advancing House Concurrent Resolution 2013, which will put on the 2026 ballot pretty much the same changes that Hobbs found unacceptable in House Bill 2703. The House voted 33-26 Monday for the measure, sending it to the Senate. Both chambers are controlled by Republicans. [...] Kolodin also dismissed comments by Democratic Secretary of State Adrian Fontes, who also opposes HB 2703, that most voters seem content to wait for official results. Fontes' press aide, Aaron Thacker, said the only people who seem to want early results are the TV networks so they can ‘call’ races, something that has no actual official meaning. ‘It really impacts voter satisfaction when ballots are being counted for three weeks,’ Kolodin said. ‘Voters want quicker gratification. They don't like the anxiety of not knowing.’ Put another way, Kolodin said, government is a customer service business. ‘So, if the customer is dissatisfied by something, then it's a real issue that needs to be addressed,’ he said. Kolodin said Republicans don't believe voters will side with Hobbs and conclude that moving up the deadline for voting early ballots is not worth getting faster election results. ‘We polled this and asked them what the customer thought of that trade-off,’ he said. ‘And the customers overwhelmingly want to make that trade-off.’” [Arizona Daily Star, [2/17/25](#)]

2025: Kolodin sponsored a ballot initiative to eliminate the early-voter list, shorten the time to cast early ballots, and require proof of citizenship to receive an early ballot.

“A Republican state lawmaker who is also running for secretary of state has introduced a proposed ballot measure that would overhaul early voting in Arizona by eliminating the early-voter list, shortening the time to cast early ballots, and requiring proof of citizenship to receive an early ballot. State Rep. Alex Kolodin, who as a lawmaker and a former lawyer for the Arizona Republican Party has pushed to abolish the state's early-voter list, said in a press release that he's pushing legislation to put the measure on the ballot because Arizonans are tired of excuses and chaos on Election Day. Kolodin said in a statement that his proposal would improve identification standards and ensure timely election results. He did not respond immediately to requests for comment. Some provisions of his proposed measure are already in state law, including a poll closing time of 7 p.m. on Election Day and a voter ID requirement. But others would eliminate a fixture of Arizona elections, the Active Early Voter List, which allows voters to sign up to receive a mail ballot automatically for each election they're eligible for. Under Kolodin's proposal, only voters who have provided proof of citizenship would get an early ballot, and they would have to ask for one every two years. The early-voting list was already due for changes under a law passed in 2021.

Starting in 2027, a voter will be removed from the list if they don't cast their mail ballot for two consecutive general election cycles — a four-year period. That includes statewide general and primary elections, as well as local candidate elections.” [Arizona Mirror, [11/19/25](#)]

2026: Kolodin sponsored legislation to make it harder to vote by mail. “A major provision of Kolodin’s HCR2001 would amend the Arizona Constitution to end what election officials call “late earlies” — mail-in ballots dropped off at polling locations on Election Day and the weekend prior. The 200,000 late early ballots dropped off at polling places and drop boxes on Election Day during the past couple of elections slow down the reporting of results because workers have to process them and verify voter signatures before they can be tabulated. (Ballots received prior to Election Day have their signatures verified, and then are tabulated immediately when the polls close, allowing the bulk of them to be reported an hour later, when results can begin to be released.) Kolodin’s resolution would cut off early mail ballot drop offs at 7 p.m. the Friday prior to an election. The proposed constitutional amendment would also eliminate the program that automatically sends ballots to millions of voters. Instead, they would have to request a mail-in ballot for each election. HCR2001 is a revised version of a bill that Kolodin sponsored last year, which was vetoed by Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs because she said Republicans refused to compromise. Hobbs, a former secretary of state, has vetoed numerous GOP-backed bills that make it more difficult to vote and has said she will continue to do so.” [Arizona Mirror, [2/9/26](#)]

Election Procedures

2025: Kolodin objected to the new Election Procedures Manual. “Republicans are already threatening to take Democratic Arizona Secretary of State Adrian Fontes to court over provisions in his 2025 elections rulebook, even though text won't be finalized until December. In the past few days, both Arizona Senate President Warren Petersen and state Rep. Alexander Kolodin released public statements heaping criticism on a draft version of the Election Procedures Manual, the state's election rulebook which instructs county elections officials how to implement the state's election laws. The EPM generally carries the force of law. [...] Kolodin, who is running against Fontes in the 2026 election for secretary of state and was sanctioned by the State Bar of Arizona for his role in lawsuits challenging the results of the 2020 presidential election, accused Fontes in an Aug. 29 letter of ignoring some of the court rulings striking down sections of the 2023 EPM. While Kolodin applauded the removal in the new draft of bans on political clothing at polling places, he wrote that the draft ‘still includes vague language on voter intimidation that could chill free speech at polling places and drop boxes.’ He also bashed instructions in the new EPM draft for checking proof of documented citizenship that Kolodin claimed went beyond what Arizona law allows. ‘These flaws paint a picture of a manual more focused on advancing a partisan agenda when the law requires impartiality,’ Kolodin wrote. ‘From the lingering free speech restrictions to the unauthorized tinkering with voter qualifications, it feels like the deck is being stacked against fair play.’ Aaron Thacker, a spokesman for Fontes, told the Arizona Mirror that the criticism from Petersen and Kolodin amounted to ‘poorly timed political theater.’ Kolodin's four-page letter, for instance, mentioned farmers, small businesses and border security, in addition to detailed descriptions of what he characterized as illegal rules in the draft manual.” [Arizona Mirror, [9/2/25](#)]

2025: Kolodin sponsored legislation to change the system for determining ballot order to advantage Republicans. “A Republican lawmaker has decided Democrats were right all along: It’s not fair to have ballot order determined by who won the last governor’s race. But Scottsdale Rep. Alexander Kolodin also acknowledges that the fact there’s now a Democrat in the top office — and a prior GOP advantage has disappeared — has at least something to do with his new proposal to change the system. His House Bill 2045 would require that the order of candidates for each race on the general election ballot be rotated among voting precincts in each county so that each party gets an equal chance of being

in the first position. [...] Kolodin conceded there is some political motivation behind his move to have the Legislature revamp the law versus having it decided by a federal judge. He said Humetewa was right in concluding it was not the role of the courts to make such decisions. That's the role of the Legislature, he said, which then — and now — has been controlled by Republicans. 'The Legislature saw fit to, fairly in my view, provide that advantage to the party that had won the governor's office,' he said of the law in place when Ducey won his races for governor. Put another way, Kolodin said, Republican lawmakers had every right to set up a system designed to benefit their candidates. 'It's not fair to take that advantage away from a political party in the middle of a gubernatorial term,' he said, saying the GOP, having won 11 counties in 2018, including Maricopa, was entitled to 'get the prize' of first position in future elections. 'And you get to keep that prize for the four years,' Kolodin said." [Arizona Daily Star, [1/8/25](#)]

Polling Places

2025: Kolodin supported replacing voting centers with precinct level polling places. "Arizona Republicans are one step closer to replacing polling centers with precinct-based polling places. The House Federalism, Military Affairs and Elections Committee moved to replace polling centers with precinct-based polling on Jan. 22. The bill is now in committee review. [...] Rep. Alexander Kolodin, a Republican who represents District 3 in Maricopa County, said voting in precincts is more convenient because it is closer to home than any polling center. 'A constant complaint I have gotten from voters in the northwestern part of my district is that since the vote center model was implemented it has become much more difficult for them to get to a polling location,' Kolodin said in a committee hearing of the bill." [Daily Wildcat, [2/10/25](#)]

- **Kolodin said voters had to be accountable for going to the correct precinct.** "In the committee meeting, Katelynn Contreras, a policy strategist for the American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona, said polling centers 'provide Arizonans with the flexibility to vote at your school or work if those activities are outside their voting precinct.' 'Arizona leads the nation in rejecting ballots that were cast in the wrong precinct,' Contreras said. She said passing HB2017 causes barriers and is 'undemocratic.' Kolodin responded that voters need to be accountable for going to the correct precinct and there will not be a provisional ballot boundary in your way if you go where you are supposed to vote. 'Why do you not care about my voters being disenfranchised?' Kolodin asked, saying that precinct voting is what Republicans in Arizona want. 'Are you here just to protect a certain group of voters, or do you care about all Arizona voters?' Kolodin asked. 'Because if you are about all Arizona voters, what's your solution for making sure that we get more access to in-person voting on election day that is convenient for people?'" [Daily Wildcat, [2/10/25](#)]

2025: Kolodin claimed vote centers disenfranchised Republican voters. "Maricopa County began transitioning to the use of vote centers in 2018 and switched over to vote centers only in 2020. 'Prior to 2020, we didn't have these issues with lines backing up because we had issues with tabulators, we didn't have issues with lines backing up because printers ran out of ink or printers were printing ballots incorrectly or any of that stuff,' Kolodin said. 'Those are problems that are inherent to a vote center model.' The Legislature should consider working parents like him who don't have time to wait in the long lines caused by voting centers, Kolodin said. [...] During Wednesday's hearing, Kolodin claimed that precinct-based voting was preferential for voters like himself who prefer to cast their ballots in person on Election Day, because they tended to be in their neighborhoods and closer to home. 'Frankly, those voters feel disenfranchised, because the people setting the locations of the vote centers are Democrats, and sometimes it doesn't seem like a priority to put vote centers in convenient locations for Republicans,' Kolodin said." [Arizona Mirror, [1/23/25](#)]

Primary Elections

2023: Kolodin opposed a plan to eliminate partisan primaries. “At the heart of the plan being prepared for the 2024 ballot is a constitutional amendment to outlaw having the state run and taxpayers pay for partisan primaries. Instead, there would be a wide-open primary where anyone who got the requisite number of signatures could be on the ballot and all Arizonans, regardless of party affiliation or lack thereof could vote. Then the top vote-getters would face off in the general election, also regardless of their own party registration. [...] Kolodin, however, said Arizonans like political parties, saying they represent a shorthand into what a candidate believes. ‘The point of the political parties is to be like, ‘Here’s the person who we think is the best exemplar of the conservative or liberal point of view to present to general election voters,’ he said. Kolodin does agree with Coughlin on one point. He said eliminating partisan primaries and having everyone run against each other could lead to the election of more moderates. But he disagrees with Coughlin that would be a good thing. ‘Politics in that case doesn’t present a real choice at all,’ Kolodin said. ‘If you have a system that’s set up so that only moderates ever win the establishment wing of both parties ever win what’s the point?’ he said, mirroring a view held by some that there is little difference between the mainstream elements of the Republicans and Democrats. ‘So, it’s the illusion of choice.’ And Kolodin said while the opposition here to open primaries is coming from Republicans, it would be wrong to see this as a strictly partisan fight. ‘In states where Democrats have a strong majority, they oppose this like the devil opposes holy water,’ he said. ‘But here, in Arizona, they think it’s to their advantage.’” [Arizona Capitol Times, [7/16/23](#)]

2024: Gov. Katie Hobbs vetoed Kolodin’s bill to change how partisan presidential primary elections operated. “Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs has vetoed her first Republican election bills this year. On April 10, Hobbs vetoed bills passed by the GOP-controlled legislature that would ban those convicted of ballot abuse from holding elected office and prevent county recorders from providing voter registration cards to most of those whose mailing addresses are outside of the state. She also vetoed a bill that would have required political parties that opt to conduct their own presidential primary election instead of participating in the publicly administered one to provide accommodations to allow disabled voters and overseas military personnel to participate. [...] Republican Rep. Alexander Kolodin of Scottsdale, who sponsored the presidential primary election legislation, House Bill 2393, slammed Hobbs for vetoing the bill. It sought to guarantee that members of the military who reside overseas could vote in an alternative presidential preference election, if a political party chose to conduct one. ‘Governor Hobbs’ decision to veto this bill is not only irresponsible but also detrimental to the democratic rights of some of our most vulnerable citizens,’ Kolodin said in a written statement. ‘This action leaves a critical aspect of our state law ambiguous, failing to secure the voting rights of individuals with disabilities and our dedicated servicemembers. At a time when ensuring access to the democratic process should be of utmost importance, this veto represents a significant step backward. It’s as if the Governor believes maintaining a murky legal landscape is preferable to granting clear and equitable voting rights to all Arizonans. This isn’t just about policy - it’s about ensuring every voice is heard and valued in our democracy.’ In her veto letter, Hobbs wrote that, if the state decided to change the way it conducted its presidential preference elections, that decision should come with bipartisan input and support. Kolodin’s bill passed along party lines in both chambers of the legislature.” [Arizona Mirror, [4/11/24](#)]

Ranked Choice Voting

2023: Kolodin opposed ranked choice voting because it “denies voters a real choice.” “Two states and more than 50 localities across the nation have enacted ranked choice voting in recent years,

according to an October report by the Congressional Research Service. The goal of all the efforts is to eliminate the current system where partisan primary voters tend to pick non-moderate candidates, who then have little incentive to move to the middle and back consensus legislation. That's actually not what the voters want, according to Republican Rep. Alexander Kolodin. 'Most voters are not centrist,' Kolodin said during Wednesday's meeting of the House committee where he advocated for the constitutional amendment that would ban ranked choice voting. 'Most voters are left or most voters are right,' he said. 'And so by structuring a system where all we can get out of it is moderates, nobody gets their first choice.' He doubled down on those comments in a later interview, explaining his opposition by calling the process 'a black box' that is inconsistent state to state, appears arbitrary, 'can be gamed' and is not transparent to voters. 'And most importantly, in my mind, it denies voters a real choice, right?' the freshman Scottsdale lawmaker and election law attorney said. 'Ranked choice voting essentially ensures you're always going to get moderates,' he said. 'Most voters, or at least a big chunk of voters, they aren't moderates. There's a lot of people who are conservatives, a lot of people who are liberals.'" [KJZZ, [4/3/23](#)]

Transparency

2023: Kolodin opposed legislation to allow elected officials to shield their addresses on public records. "Legislation designed to shield public officials from threats has no enforcement mechanism to ensure that they actually live where they claim. SB 1061, now awaiting action by Gov. Katie Hobbs, is designed to allow elected officials to have the same protections now afforded judges, prosecutors and domestic violence victims to shield their addresses on public records. Once someone becomes an elected official and opts in, any public records of what they claim as their primary residence would disappear. And those are the records that challengers or anyone else can use to determine if legislators actually meet the state constitutional requirements that they reside in the district they represent. [...] The measure does more than shield a public official's home address. Also hidden would be their home telephone number, personal photograph, directions to their home or photographs of their personal vehicle. That bothered Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, one of just a handful of lawmakers who voted against the measure. 'It holds public officials like us to a different standard and makes our elections less transparent and more opaque,' he complained." [Arizona Daily Star, [5/4/23](#)]

2024: Kolodin sponsored legislation to protect candidates from "deep fakes." "The way Alexander Kolodin sees it, a well-crafted 'deep fake' video or audio has the capacity to swing an election. So he is proposing a path for candidates to get a quick ruling from a court to allow them to try to convince voters with a court order in hand that what they are seeing really isn't them. But the proposal by the Scottsdale lawmaker would not allow a judge to actually order a deep fake of a candidate to be removed from the internet, or wherever it is posted. Still, Kolodin said, it provides candidates some avenue of relief. 'This solves something that is going to be a real problem in very short order,' he said. And it's all due to changes in technology and the use of artificial intelligence, which has made audio and in some cases, video virtually indistinguishable from reality. 'It's something that could really cause a lot of disruption if it happens prior to an election,' he said. 'So there needs to be something to try to address it.'" [Arizona Daily Star, [1/15/24](#)]

- **Kolodin warned that election deep fakes could be "really destabilizing for society."** "The sponsor, Scottsdale Republican Rep. Alexander Kolodin, was careful to limit what a court could do to no more than a declaration of falsity. The new law will not permit a judge to order that the offending piece be removed from the internet or wherever it is posted. Nor will it allow the candidate to seek financial damages. What it comes down to is protecting the public interest and ensuring that people are not acting on, or reacting to, something that is not real, Kolodin said. 'Deep fake

technology has progressed so far that a well-made deep fake is really indistinguishable from the person themselves,' he said. Consider, he said, the video purporting to show Biden announcing a draft related to the war in Ukraine. On one hand, Kolodin said the video was of such poor quality that most people realized it was a fake. But not all. 'But if that had been of a better quality such that a large majority of people actually thought it was Biden, people would be grabbing their rifles,' he said. 'That would incite civil violence.' 'That's the kind of thing that could be really destabilizing to society,' Kolodin said. 'So there needs to be a mechanism to go into court and get a court to say, 'Nah, that doesn't actually seem like it's actually Joe Biden'.'" [Arizona Daily Star, [5/21/24](#)]

- **The Guardian: Kolodin used ChatGPT to write part of his anti-deepfakes bill.** "An Arizona state representative behind a new law that regulates deepfakes in elections used an artificial intelligence chatbot, ChatGPT, to write part of the law – specifically, the part that defines what a deepfake is. Republican Alexander Kolodin's bill, which passed unanimously in both chambers and was signed by the Democratic governor this week, will allow candidates in Arizona or residents to ask a judge to declare whether a supposed deepfake is real or not, giving candidates a way to debunk AI-generated misinformation. Kolodin said he used the chatbot ChatGPT to help define what 'digital impersonation' is for the bill in part because it was a fun way to demonstrate the technology. He provided a screenshot of ChatGPT's response to the question of what a deepfake is, which is similar to language that is included in the bill's definition. 'I am by no means a computer scientist,' Kolodin said. 'And so when I was trying to write the technical portion of it, in terms of what sort of technological processing makes something a deepfake, I was kind of struggling with the terminology. So I thought to myself, well, let me just ask the subject matter expert. And so I asked ChatGPT to write a definition of what was a deepfake.' That portion of the bill 'probably got fiddled with the least – people seemed to be pretty cool with that' throughout the legislative process. ChatGPT provided the 'baseline definition' and then 'I, the human, added in the protections for human rights, things like that it excludes comedy, satire, criticism, artistic expression, that kind of stuff,' Kolodin said." [The Guardian, [5/22/24](#)]

Vote Counting

2023: Kolodin supported legislation to allow counties to hand count ballots. "The Arizona House of Representatives on Monday passed a Republican-backed bill that would allow hand count of ballots, but it will almost assuredly meet with Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs' veto stamp. [...] But Republican Rep. Alex Kolodin, a Scottsdale lawyer who has represented the Arizona Republican Party, disagreed, saying that HB2722 only clarified already existing law. 'No law requires county recorders to do a machine count in the first place,' Kolodin said. He added that he believes voters should have the right to elect county officials that promise hand counts, if that's what the electorate believes is best. The courts do not necessarily agree with Kolodin's take. Pima County Superior Court Judge Casey McGinley in fall 2022 ruled that the Cochise County Board of Supervisors had no authority to expand its standard hand count audit of the 2022 general election to a full hand count, but that ruling is currently being appealed." [Arizona Mirror, [6/14/23](#)]

2023: Kolodin rejected Attorney General Kris Mayes' informal opinion that counties could not hand count all ballots. "Democratic Attorney General Kris Mayes has rescinded an informal opinion issued by her Republican predecessor that said counties could hand count all ballots in an election, a process Republicans in Cochise County attempted last year based on unfounded concerns that machine ballot tabulators are not secure or accurate. Mayes issued a formal opinion in its place late Friday, saying existing election laws bar counties from implementing full hand counts of ballots cast on Election Day and those cast early by mail. The new opinion tracks a judge's ruling that blocked Cochise County

officials from doing the full hand count the county's Republican-dominated Board of Supervisors ordered following November's election. Judges look to opinions from the attorney general for important guidance on interpreting state laws, though they are not legally binding. [...] But Alexander Kolodin, an attorney representing Cochise County in its appeal, said he thinks the county will prevail at the Court of Appeals, regardless of what Mayes is now saying. 'All I can say is coming in and overturning your predecessor's opinion is obviously a political move,' said Kolodin, who also serves as a Republican member of the state House of Representatives from Scottsdale. Anyway, he said, Mayes' opinion even a formal one in her role as attorney general is just that. 'At the end of the day, these AG opinions are not the law, they're not case law, they're not precedent,' Kolodin said." [Arizona Daily Star, [5/22/23](#)]

2022: Kolodin represented Cochise County Recorder David Stevens in a suit seeking a hand count of ballots. "Cochise County officials spent all day arguing in court Friday over whether two Republican supervisors could order a hand count of approximately 40,000 ballots and whether such an impromptu count is even logistically possible. [...] County Recorder David Stevens said preparations already are underway, from lining up volunteers to securing tables, chairs and a venue, and that the process should be simple and not delay the official election canvass. [...] Attorney Alexander Kolodin, who represented the recorder and who also was involved in the Maricopa County election review last year, posed questions to Stevens aimed at downplaying concerns the count would be unusual. Kolodin asked Stevens the purpose of taking a random sample when recounting a fraction of ballots. Stevens said it was to avoid bias in which ballots are recounted. 'Is there any possibility of bias if 100% of the ballots are counted?' Kolodin said. Stevens replied, 'If you are selecting them all there is no bias involved.'" [Arizona Republic, [11/4/22](#)]

- **Kolodin continued to push for a hand count in Cochise County even after an appeals court ruled against him, sparking concerns about chaos in certification of the election.** "On Thursday, a state appeals court made clear in a 2-1 vote that it would not be reversing a court order barring the full hand count in time for the plan to be revived for the midterms. But a lawyer for Cochise County Recorder David Stevens -- a proponent of the hand audit -- said that the county isn't giving up on its efforts to conduct a hand count that goes beyond the usual procedures. The attorney, Alex Kolodin, told CNN Friday that they were 'disappointed' that the Arizona appeals court 'thought of will of bureaucrats should prevail over the will of elected officials.' 'We are going to continue to work toward an expanded hand count to the maximum extent permitted by the trial court order,' Kolodin added, refusing to go into further detail." [CNN, [11/11/22](#)]
- **2023: Kolodin sought to have the State Bar of Arizona sanction the Cochise County attorney who told the board of supervisors that a full hand count of ballots would be illegal.** "An attorney involved in the legal dispute over whether Cochise County could do a full hand count of ballots now is seeking to have the State Bar of Arizona sanction the county attorney who had told the supervisors the move would be illegal. In a complaint filed Monday, Alexander Kolodin said that Brian McIntyre publicly shared that he had given legal advice to the supervisors telling them the action would be illegal. That disclosure, Kolodin said, then became part of the basis for the legal challenge by an outside group to the board's decision. In fact, he said, McIntyre actually sent a letter to the group that filed suit detailing criminal laws he believed that had been broken. That, said Kolodin, now a Republican representative from Scottsdale, violated rules that prohibit an attorney from revealing information about a client unless that client has given approval. Kolodin, who represented Cochise County Recorder David Stevens in the dispute Stevens supported a full hand count acknowledged that rule does allow a lawyer to violate the attorney-client privilege 'to prevent wrongdoing under certain circumstances.' But he said that was not the case here. 'This revelation was not a necessary preventative for many

reasons, not the last of which was that the permissibility of the board's proposed action was already in litigation,' Kolodin wrote to the State Bar.” [Arizona Daily Star, [12/18/23](#)]

- **2024: Kolodin’s complaint against Cochise attorney Brian McIntyre was dismissed.** “An ethics complaint filed last year against Cochise County Attorney Brian McIntyre by an Arizona legislator was dismissed last week, but not before a lawyer for the State Bar of Arizona provided McIntyre some hindsight advice related to the attorney/client privilege. McIntyre provided the Herald/Review a copy the Aug. 2 State Bar letter. In it, he is advised that the December 2023 complaint by Arizona Rep. Alex Kolodin was being dismissed because the ‘purposes of lawyer discipline can be achieved through instructional comment and because you have recently completed a course on client confidentiality.’ The complaint by Kolodin, who is also an attorney, alleged McIntyre unethically revealed privileged legal advice he had provided to the Cochise County Board of Supervisors. It was co-signed by Ally Miller, a non-attorney who formerly served on the Pima County Board of Supervisors.” [Cochise County Herald-Review, [8/5/24](#)]

2014: Kolodin represented Americans United for Democracy, Integrity and Transparency-Audit AZ in a suit seeking access to Santa Cruz County election machines. “What began as a public records request has grown into a legal battle as county prosecutors dig in their heels against a group asking for information on election machines. In July, an organization known as Americans United for Democracy, Integrity and Transparency-Audit AZ and headed by John Brakey requested county records dealing with election machines, but the County Board of Supervisors voted to deny the request, citing concerns the information could be used to hack the county’s election system. Brakey’s group filed a special action request in hopes a judge would force the release of the records, and on Wednesday, Phoenix-based attorney Alexander Kolodin and Deputy County Attorney John Holman presented their cases to Superior Court Judge Pro-Tem Kimberley Corsaro in front of about two dozen members of the public. The dispute revolves around a July 9 request to see copies of vendor contracts, central tabulator directories, event logs, audit logs, folder list, and file allocation table used in the election computer system. In addition, they asked to check the network settings of the election system, which would be done by appointment with county staff. [...] Kolodin argued that complying with the records request would not harm the election system’s integrity, nor would it give the group access to any personally identifiable information. In addition to the release of the records, the organization requested attorney fees, double damages and expenses.” [Nogales International, 9/26/14]

Proof of Citizenship

2025: Kolodin proposed amending the Arizona Constitution to require Arizona voters provide proof of citizenship to vote in federal elections. “A Republican lawmaker who wants to be the state's chief elections officer wants to require Arizona voters provide documented proof of citizenship to vote in federal elections despite a federal appellate court ruling voiding a similar law. In a new proposal, Rep. Alexander Kolodin of Scottsdale seeks to insert a provision in the Arizona Constitution to say ‘only citizens’ can register and vote ‘in any public election in Arizona.’ It spells out that early ballots are available only to those who have provided citizenship proof.” [KJZZ, [11/17/25](#)]

2025: Kolodin sponsored legislation to make it easier to remove people without registered proof of citizenship from the voter rolls. “Some of the 200,000 longtime Arizona residents who were mistakenly never asked to provide proof of citizenship when they registered to vote could eventually be kicked off the voter rolls entirely, if a legislative proposal moves forward. GOP state Rep. Alex Kolodin's proposal, under House Bill 2038, addresses calls from county recorders for clarity on how they should address these voters' eligibility. The recorders have been seeking the help since last summer,

when state officials announced the problem, and some have criticized Secretary of State Adrian Fontes, a Democrat, for not providing more guidance. Under Kolodin's proposal, which he explained at a House committee meeting Wednesday, if the recorders ask these voters for citizenship proof but they fail to provide it within 35 days, their status would be put in limbo. If they attempt to vote while in that limbo status, they would have until 7 p.m. on Election Day to provide the citizenship proof for their ballots to be counted. But if recorders still don't have the proof after the next general election in 2026, they must cancel the voter's registration, the bill says. Fontes' office and voting rights group All Voting is Local Action immediately objected to Kolodin's legislation, saying the voters should still be eligible to vote in federal elections, even if they don't provide citizenship proof. Arizona requires this proof to register to vote in state and local elections, but to be on the rolls for federal elections, voters only need to attest to their citizenship under penalty of perjury.” [Arizona Mirror, [2/14/25](#)]

Voter ID

2026: Kolodin: “Voter ID aligns with President Trump's agenda for securing our elections, and to the Republicans in this body, it is non-negotiable.” “But the provision in HCR2001 that Kolodin said has caused division between Republicans in the House and Senate is a requirement for all voters to provide a government-issued ID concurrently with casting their ballot. Arizonans who vote in person at a polling site already must show identification before they are given a ballot, but early voters aren't required to do so because their signatures are verified by elections workers. Kolodin said that some Republicans in the Senate want to nix that provision, but keeping it is a hard line for him and his fellow Republicans in the House. ‘Voter ID aligns with President Trump's agenda for securing our elections, and to the Republicans in this body, it is non-negotiable,’ he said.” [Arizona Mirror, [2/8/26](#)]

Voter Registration

2025: Kolodin opposed a proposal to allow election day voter registration. “Gov. Katie Hobbs said Friday she's aware that lawmakers intend to send an issue directly to the ballot in 2026 once she vetoes on Monday a bill to curb the ability of voters to drop off their early ballots. But the governor said it doesn't need to come to that. Hobbs said she's willing to try again to reach a deal with Republicans that would give them what they want – a Friday before Election Day deadline for ballot drop offs – if she gets at least some of what she wants. That is unlikely to happen. Rep. Alexander Kolodin said some things on the governor's list, like same-day voter registration, are non-starters with Republicans. Ditto loosening up on regulations about who can bring someone else's ballot to polling places. [...] One of those proposals, she said, was to scrap existing laws that say only those who have registered to vote 29 days ahead of the election can cast a ballot. Kolodin, one of the chief architects of HB 2703, said that's not negotiable. It starts, he said, with the requirement – unique to Arizona – that people present ‘documented proof of citizenship’ before they can register. ‘The whole way the DPOC law works is first they search the databases,’ Kolodin said ‘If they can't find the proof of citizenship, then you have a certain amount of time to cure it,’ he said. ‘You can't have that with same-day registration.’ And Kolodin said there's no reason for Republicans to give in on that.” [Arizona Daily Star, [2/14/25](#)]

Election Denial

2024 election

July 2024: Kolodin represented the Arizona GOP in a suit accusing the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and Secretary of State Adrian Fontes of improperly testing voting equipment. “Voting in the 2024 primary is ongoing, but Arizona Republicans have already sued state and county

election officials over their administration of the 2024 election. The lawsuit, filed by the Republican Party of Arizona and the Maricopa County Republican Committee, accuses both the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and Arizona Secretary of State Adrian Fontes of improperly conducting logic and accuracy tests on voting equipment ahead of the July 30 primary election. According to the suit, those tests were performed earlier than protocol allows. Representing the county and state GOP in the suit is state Rep. Alexander Kolodin, a Scottsdale attorney who was sanctioned and placed on probation by the State Bar of Arizona in December for leading a different lawsuit that claimed massive election fraud without any evidence to back it up. Kolodin told Phoenix New Times that this latest lawsuit doesn't seek to change past elections or even the 2024 primary results. Instead, it is focused on the general election in November. The suit asks Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Michael Gordon to order officials to test voting equipment according to the rules of the Elections Procedures Manual, which was approved by Fontes and written by his office. 'The AZ GOP is trying to be proactive and identify issues in election administration in advance of the 2024 general so that we can get those kinks worked out and hopefully have a much smoother election process for the general election than we've had in prior cycles,' Kolodin said. When asked if there are any other election issues on the Republican Party's radar, Kolodin said he only wanted to talk about the lawsuit." [Phoenix New Times, [7/23/24](#)]

- **September 2024: The Arizona Republican Party withdrew its suit.** "The Arizona Republican Party came out swinging when it alleged in a lawsuit that state and Maricopa County officials improperly tested voting machines ahead of July's primary elections. But after withering responses in court from both the Maricopa County Attorney's Office and the Arizona secretary of state on Aug. 5 – responses that called into question the Arizona GOP's understanding of state election law – the Republican Party withdrew its suit. The GOP also reached a settlement with Maricopa County that KJZZ reported governs which voting tabulation machines are made available for testing. In a statement to Phoenix New Times, the Maricopa County Elections Department said it agreed to a settlement to avoid costly litigation leading up to a major election." [Phoenix New Times, [9/18/24](#)]

October 2024: Kolodin represented a Florida based organization in a lawsuit alleging that Arizona had 1.2 million ineligible registered voters. "A Florida-based organization contends there are 1.2 million ineligible people on Arizona voter registration rolls. In a new lawsuit, attorneys for Citizen AG say their calculations show that more than 1.6 million registered voters did not vote in the last two elections and also did not respond to notices that election officials are legally required to send to them to find out if they are still eligible. That, the lawsuit claims, means that they are dead or have moved. [...] Little is known about Citizen AG. No one from the organization returned messages seeking comment. And state Rep. Alexander Kolodin, who is serving as a local attorney for the Florida-based organization, said he could not comment on the litigation. Its website says it launched 'a citizen-led initiative where registered voters submit challenges to their respective county voter rolls.'" [Arizona Capital Times, [10/31/24](#)]

- **A judge ordered Secretary of State Fontes to turn over records, but refused to order the purge of 1.2 million voters as Kolodin requested.** "Arizona Secretary of State Adrian Fontes must turn over records he is required by law to have about his obligation to maintain accurate voter rolls, a federal judge ordered late Friday. But U.S. District Court Judge Steven Logan refused to order Fontes to immediately strip 1.2 million voters from the state registration list as requested by Citizen AG which calls itself a voter education group. The judge said even if he had that right to alter voter registration rolls and he said he doesn't the organization's claim that many people who are on the list who shouldn't be allowed to cast a ballot is, at this point 'wholly speculative.' Attorney Alexander Kolodin, who represents Citizen AG, said the ruling is still a victory. He said once the records are produced the judge gave Fontes until Dec. 2 to comply

that will give his client a chance to prove the merits of its assertion of poorly maintained voter rolls. And that, said Kolodin, could provide the basis for a future challenge to the rolls, even if that can't occur until after next week's election. 'We are pleased that the court ordered the records the secretary has been unlawfully withholding released so that Citizen AG will have the documents it needs to ensure that Arizona's voter rolls are cleaned up,' he told Capitol Media Services. But Kolodin, a Republican state representative from Scottsdale, also took a political swat at Fontes, a Democrat. 'It is obviously difficult to prove a claim when the secretary has been withholding just those records which reveal the depths of his incompetence and malfeasance,' he said." [Arizona Daily Star, [11/3/24](#)]

2022 election

2022: Kolodin represented Kari Lake in an attempt to overturn her loss in the 2022 gubernatorial election, arguing that she could overturn the election even if there wasn't voter fraud. "The lawyer who filed a brief on Kari Lake's behalf said that the Trump-endorsed gubernatorial candidate could still overturn the results of the Arizona midterms, even if no evidence of voter fraud is found. Election-law attorney and newly elected Arizona Rep. Alex Kolodin told NewsNation why Lake's legal efforts challenging the state's gubernatorial election results are continuing, even after Democrat Katie Hobbs was officially sworn in on Monday. Talking on 'Dan Abrams Live,' Kolodin—whose official website's homepage has a quote from Donald Trump calling him 'a hell of an attorney [and] a patriot'—said: 'There has never been any sort of time bar on resolutions of election challenges on appeal that requires them to get resolved before the swearing-in.' Kolodin added that the point of Lake's appeal is 'that the appellate court will reverse the decision of the trial.' The congressman-elect said it's 'very typical with cases like this' to 'go up on appeal,' adding that 'if the trial court got it wrong, the court of appeal would say something.' According to Kolodin, 'the trial court got it wrong in terms of requiring proof of fraud or some ill intent. That's simply not what Arizona law requires. The only thing that matters is, 'Were there errors? Were they significant enough that they could have changed the results or at least make the results uncertain?' Kolodin said that 'every voter in Maricopa County knows that there were incredibly pervasive errors on election day that kind came up and slapped this all in the face.'" [Newsweek, [1/3/23](#)]

2023: Kolodin represented Abe Hamadeh in his attempt to overturn his loss in the 2022 attorney general race. "The Arizona Supreme Court has declined to expedite former candidate for attorney general Abe Hamadeh's appeal of his loss to Democrat Kris Mayes in November and ordered Hamadeh to pay some of his opponents' legal costs in the case. The court ordered Hamadeh to cover some of Mayes' and Secretary of State Adrian Fontes' legal fees related to the Supreme Court action because of delays and misrepresenting information to the court about prior judgments in the case. [...] Hamadeh's legal team includes state Rep. Alex Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, Tim LaSota, a prominent GOP election attorney, and Jen Wright, who led a controversial election unit in the state Attorney General's Office under a prior administration." [Arizona Republic, [8/24/23](#)]

2023: Kolodin invited Kari Lake to address a hearing of the Committee on Oversight, Accountability and Big Tech where he called modern America a "nascent totalitarian society." "Kari Lake told the small crowd gathered in a Arizona House of Representative meeting room on Monday that Google has 'more power than any entity in the world when it comes to choosing our leaders here in America,' just before state Rep. Alexander Kolodin declared that he sees modern America as a 'nascent totalitarian society.' Lake, the failed 2022 Republican candidate for Arizona governor, and Kolodin, a freshman Republican state legislator from Scottsdale, were both highly critical of Big Tech's influence on free speech and elections during the first meeting of the Arizona House of Representatives' Committee on Oversight, Accountability and Big Tech. [...] Kolodin, the chair of the

committee, promised that it would continue to look into Big Tech’s influence on voters, free speech and elections.” [Arizona Mirror, [9/5/23](#)]

2023: Kolodin used his position as chairman of a committee to elicit testimony that could benefit his client, Abe Hamadah, in his court fight to overturn his election loss. “An attorney for a failed candidate challenging the 2022 election results used his unrelated position as chairman of a legislative panel to elicit testimony Thursday that ultimately could benefit his client in court. But the top legislative leader who appointed attorney Alexander Kolodin to head the panel, House Speaker Ben Toma, said later he sees nothing improper in his use of the role. Kolodin is a Scottsdale Republican lawmaker as well as a privately hired attorney for losing GOP attorney general candidate Abe Hamadeh. Toma named him to head the special legislative committee looking into government censorship, including attempts to censor social media posts; big tech manipulation of internet platforms; and the use of artificial intelligence. At Thursday’s committee hearing, Kolodin grilled former Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Ruth McGregor on her investigation of printer failures at Maricopa County vote centers in the 2022 election Hamadeh is still challenging in court. Kolodin told Capitol Media Services the line of questioning fits within the charge Toma gave the Ad Hoc Committee on Oversight, Accountability and Big Tech when he formed it in August. ‘All of the stuff we were talking about was with the technology, the printers and how they’re configured and is there something about them that’s causing it,’ Kolodin said. ‘So, it’s totally a technology issue.’ The questions deal with the issue of ‘oversight in general,’ he said. But Kolodin’s questions went specifically to the issues of what McGregor found after Maricopa County asked her to discover why tabulators at vote centers failed to read some ballots from on-site printers. Hamadeh, who lost by 280 votes to Democrat Kris Mayes for attorney general, contends those problems depressed the vote for him because some voters left the centers without casting ballots.” [Arizona Daily Star, [12/29/23](#)]

2020 Election

March 2025: Kolodin refused to say whether Joe Biden won Arizona in 2020. “And Kolodin on Monday also would not answer questions about whether he believes that Joe Biden won the vote in Arizona in 2020 despite the official tally showing the Democrat outpolled Trump by more than 10,000 votes.” [Arizona Mirror, [3/31/25](#)]

December 2023: Kolodin was sanctioned by the State Bar of Arizona for his role in lawsuits challenging the 2020 election. “A GOP legislator was admonished by the State Bar of Arizona and placed on probation last week for his role in lawsuits challenging the 2020 election, including the infamous ‘kraken’ lawsuit that made implausible and evidence-free claims of massive election fraud. State Rep. Alexander Kolodin was also disciplined for representing two Republican legislators and a GOP congressman in a defamation lawsuit filed against a Democratic lawmaker that was tossed out of court after a judge ruled it was ‘primarily (filed) for purposes of harassment.’ Kolodin entered into a settlement with the Bar on Nov. 6. The Scottsdale Republican accepted the admonition and 18 months of probation, agreed to pay around \$2,700 in court costs and must complete several continuing legal education courses focused on attorney ethics. An Arizona Supreme Court disciplinary panel found that Kolodin ‘violated his duty to the legal profession, the legal system, and the public’ by bringing cases that were backed by no evidence, misrepresented Arizona law and sought relief that would be illegal. In a statement to the Arizona Mirror, Kolodin claimed the Bar disciplinary process was being abused by ‘radical left wing activists’ who filed three separate complaints against him. ‘It is unfortunate that the bar’s effort to keep lawyers honest is being gamed by political operatives,’ he said. ‘I was happy to have the opportunity to protect my team and allow them to put this matter in the rear view mirror.’” [Arizona Mirror, [12/14/23](#)]

- **The 65 Project described Kolodin as “a lawyer who flew under the radar but still sought to overturn our fair and free election.”** “The 65 Project brushed off threats from Gooden, pointing to one instance in which one of the targeted post-election lawyers pleaded guilty to the group's complaint that ‘he violated the rules of professional conduct by lying to courts about fraud in the 2020 election.’ The Arizona State Bar sided with the complaint, ruling that attorney Alexander Kolodin must be disciplined for his efforts to challenge the state's 2020 election results. ‘The importance of this outcome cannot be overstated,’ group leaders said in a statement. ‘For the first time, we see a state bar holding accountable a lawyer who flew under the radar but still sought to overturn our fair and free election. Mr. Kolodin does not have the name recognition of Rudy Giuliani, Jenna Ellis, or John Eastman, but that makes the fact that he's being disciplined even more monumental. It should serve as a warning to any lawyer who would consider abusing the legal system and violating their professional oath to subvert democracy.’” [Washington Examiner, [1/24/24](#)]

November 2020: Kolodin filed a lawsuit seeking to block Biden’s victory in Arizona. “With the tally of votes showing Joe Biden still winning in Arizona, the state Republican Party and its allies are trying last-minute legal tactics to keep that from happening. The two new lawsuits are the best — and perhaps only — chance that the president has to getting close to that margin and taking the state's 11 electoral votes. [...] In a separate lawsuit, attorney Alexander Kolodin charges that Maricopa County — and presumably all others — have no specific way to determine whether a given voter's choices were properly counted. That goes to the question of what happens when a ballot is not automatically accepted and read by tabulating machines at polling places, whether because of problems with the equipment or other issues. These are set aside for hand review at county offices. Kolodin charges that one of the women he represents — the same who brought the never-proven claim about how the use of Sharpies and bleed-through on ballots was affecting the count — never had her vote counted at all. He said his other client, whose ballot had to go through separate review, was denied the right have her vote ‘counted via a fully automated and perfect process,’ as were others in a similar situation.” [Arizona Daily Star, [11/13/20](#)]

December 2020: Kolodin filed a lawsuit with Sidney Powell seeking to block certification of Biden’s win in Arizona. “The legal team led by attorney Sidney Powell plans to appeal the dismissal of an Arizona election lawsuit by an Obama-appointed federal judge on Dec. 9. Powell's Arizona co-counsel Alex Kolodin told The Epoch Times in an interview that his team plans to fast-track the case to the Supreme Court and will file a petition for ap - peal in the coming days. [...] Kolodin told The Epoch Times that the chairwoman of the Arizona Republican Party granted his team approval to appeal the case to the Supreme Court, and that they plan to soon file a petition for a writ of certiorari asking for the case to be heard. A petition for a writ of certiorari is a document that a losing party files with the Supreme Court asking it to review the lower court's decision on its merits. The provision would request from the Supreme Court an emergency transfer and would allow the case to be heard without waiting for a decision from the U.S. Courts of Appeals. The Supreme Court is usually not under any obligation to hear such cases unless the case could have national significance, might harmonize conflicting decisions in the federal Circuit courts, or could have precedential value. ‘I thought she [Humetewa] took the case very seriously. She treated it very professionally, and she was very fair, but I disagree with her decision,’ Kolodin said. ‘My clients disagree with her decision, and we've always known that this will ultimately be decided in the U.S. Supreme Court.’ Kolodin also suggested that based on his experience in the field, he isn't surprised by Humetewa's decision to dismiss the case. ‘I've been doing election law for many years, and I would say ... when it's a really tough case like this, the lower court judge always ducks, right? The lower court judge never wants to be the person responsible for changing an election,’ he said.

‘We're ready to fight on and ready to take this fight to the very finish, and that's the U.S. Supreme Court.’” [Epoch Times, [12/10/20](#)]

June 2022: Kolodin criticized the Department of Justice investigation of fake electors in the 2020 election. “In the past two days, according to several people familiar with the matter, at least nine people in four different states have received subpoenas in connection with the fake-elector investigation. They were largely those who agreed to be electors for Mr. Trump themselves or were aides to Mr. Trump’s campaign in states where the plan was carried out. Among those who received subpoenas were Kelli Ward, the chairwoman of the Arizona Republican Party, and her husband, Michael, both of whom served as electors on Mr. Trump’s purported slate in the state, according to a person familiar with the matter. Along with the Wards, subpoenas were issued to two other pro-Trump electors in Arizona, Nancy Cottle and Loraine B. Pellegrino, the person said. Their lawyer, Alexander Kolodin, attacked the Justice Department’s fake elector inquiry. ‘This is an investigation based on allegations that our clients engaged in core First Amendment activity — petitioning Congress about grievances,’ Mr. Kolodin said.” [New York Times, [6/23/22](#)]

- **April 2024: Kolodin compared Arizona’s indicted fake electors to Martin Luther King.** “Quick, what do Arizona’s now-indicted fake electors and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. have in common? If you said they’re all heroes then congratulations, you’re a member of the far, far, far-out right that on Saturday reaffirmed its death grip on the Arizona Republican Party. [...] Count Republican consultant Tyler Montague among the many stunned at the party’s choice of leaders. ‘I’m bearish on the AZGOP,’ Montague said on social media on Saturday evening, shortly after word leaked out on delegates’ choices to sit on the Republican National Committee. ‘That they would choose Indicted Fake Elector Jake Hoffman, and disgraced defamer Liz Harris who was removed from office, as the National Committeemen shows a lot where the crazy activist base is right now. They’ve lost their minds.’ Not so, according to Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, and Exhibit No. 1 in the category of lost minds. Kolodin, an attorney, is something of a legend in the election denial circles, having filed several rather spectacularly unsuccessful lawsuits, several of which landed him in hot water with the State Bar of Arizona. [...] ‘MLK was arrested like 30 times,’ Kolodin replied to Montague on Saturday evening. ‘Would you have been bearish on the civil rights movement too?’ ‘The people who would have been part of the civil rights movement are the people getting indicted right now,’ Kolodin continued. ‘The folks mocking them for it would have been the ones with the firehoses.’” [Laurie Roberts Column, Arizona Republic, [4/29/24](#)]

November 2020: Kolodin filed a lawsuit over “Sharpie gate.” “A new lawsuit late Wednesday charges that ballots are being invalidated because voters are using Sharpies -- exactly what they are told to use by Maricopa County election officials. Attorney Alexander Kolodin claims that Laurie Aguilera showed up at her polling place on Election Day and was provided with that marker. He said Aguilera noticed the ink was bleeding through. Kolodin said when the electronic ballot box failed to ‘properly register’ her vote she requested a new ballot but was refused. Now he wants a judge to order the county to identify any ballots that did not go through. And Kolodin wants the court to give Aguilera and any other affected vote ‘to be present in person to observe the counting of ballots and the adjudication of voter intent by election workers for ballots that could not be read by machine.’ County Recorder Adrian Fontes told Capitol Media Services he had not yet seen the lawsuit. But he labeled what has been dubbed #SharpieGate as ‘hoo hah.’” [Arizona Daily Star, [11/5/20](#)]

- **Kolodin demanded that a judge allow members of the public into offices where ballots were being tabulated.** “Kolodin said there is evidence people were denied new ballots or that the ballots with problems, rather than being counted by machines, were set aside and sent to county

offices where individuals sought to ‘adjudicate’ what is the voter's intent. That, however, runs afoul of the right of voters who show up at polling places to feed their ballots into the machines and verify that they are being tallied. He wants Mahoney to order that outsiders, including people who say their Sharpie-marked ballots may have been misread, to go to county offices and watch as these ballots are fed back through machines. Liddy said there are no such boxes of ballots waiting to be rerun and tabulated. Kolodin sniffed at assertions that random outsiders are unnecessary and inappropriate at central tallying locations to monitor the process to be sure that no ballots are being disregarded. ‘You've got a lot of confidence in these party officials," he said, saying they have ‘the party's interest at heart’ and not necessarily that of any individual voter.” [Arizona Daily Star, [11/7/20](#)]

- **Kolodin dismissed the Sharpie Gate case.** “The #Sharpiegate controversy may be over now that the attorneys who challenged the use of the markers to complete Election Day ballots in metro Phoenix told a court they’re dismissing their legal challenge. Roopali Desai, an attorney for Arizona Secretary of State Katie Hobbs, said she received notice Saturday from the court that the lawyers who filed the lawsuit are now ending the case. A copy of the dismissal notice provided to The Associated Press doesn’t specify a reason for dismissing the case, and Alexander Kolodin, one of the attorneys who filed the lawsuit, declined a request for comment.” [Associated Press, [11/7/20](#)]

April 2021: Kolodin represented Cyber Ninjas in their attempt to deny public access to their audit of the 2020 election. “The attorney for the private firm hired by the Senate to audit the 2020 election is trying to deny public access to the policies and procedures they are using to audit the returns. And Alexander Kolodin, who represents Cyber Ninjas, also contends the firm is not required to ensure that the 2.1 million ballots they have are being reviewed by bipartisan teams. In new legal filings, Kolodin said he is providing the information demanded last week by Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Christopher Coury after the Arizona Democratic Party filed suit. That ranges from how the company ensures the chain of custody for the 2.1 million ballots it now has as well as the election equipment turned over by Maricopa County to issues of signature verification. But he contends it is not in the public interest to let Arizonans see them. ‘It is no secret that this audit is an emotional issue,’ Kolodin wrote. ‘There exists a subset of individuals that might utilize such documents as a roadmap to breach the audit's security and thereby cause the very harms (the Democratic Party) ostensibly seek to prevent.’ Anyway, he argued, the documents about the firm's practices contain ‘trade secrets.’” [Arizona Capitol Times, [4/26/21](#)]

- **Kolodin said Cyber Ninjas was not required to follow state law requiring bipartisan panels to review the ballots they are counting.** “That question of how the audit is being conducted and whether it is fair also figure into Kolodin's claim that Cyber Ninjas is not required to have bipartisan panels review the ballots they are counting. Kolodin acknowledged that state law requires the election boards that review ballots to have ‘as equal as practicable representation of the members of the two largest parties’ on these review panels. But Kolodin said that, as far as his client is concerned, that doesn't apply. ‘Cyber Ninjas, however, is not an election board and has not been hired to conduct an election for the purpose of declaring candidates elected or not elected,’ he wrote. Instead, Kolodin said, the firm was hired to develop a report for the Senate about the conduct of the 2020 election, information he said the Senate can use to decide whether to enact changes to the law. And Kolodin said, his client can't make such decisions. ‘Unlike a board of elections, Cyber Ninjas, as a government contractor, and like a government in other contexts, does not believe it is required, or even permitted, to make hiring decisions on the basis of political affiliation,’ he said.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [4/26/21](#)]

January 6

February 2021: Kolodin represented State Rep. Mark Finchem in his effort to prevent expulsion from the Arizona House over his actions before and during January 6. “A majority of House Democrats are calling for the expulsion of Republican Mark Finchem based on what they say are his improper actions before and during the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol. [...] Finchem declined to comment ‘on advice of counsel.’ He already has obtained legal representation in connection with at least one issue not now in Salman's bill of particulars: his refusal to turn over text messages sought as part of a public records request. His attorney, Alexander Kolodin – the same lawyer who filed lawsuits to challenge the results of the Arizona election – argued that the messages are on their own personal devices and therefore not public. But Kolodin also noted in a letter to the Arizona Republic that the FBI continues to investigate the incursion at the Capitol, saying even if the records were public ‘the threat of criminal prosecution gives rise to certain Constitutional rights that may overcome the duty to disclose otherwise public documents under Arizona's public records law.’” [Arizona Daily Star, [2/9/21](#)]

March 2021: Kolodin represented Finchem in his defamation suit against State Rep. Charlene Fernandez, who signed letter calling for him to be investigated for January 6 participation. “Two Republican politicians are suing state Rep. Charlene Fernandez, alleging defamation after she signed a letter with other Democratic lawmakers urging the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate them for joining rallies in Washington, D.C. the day a mob stormed the Capitol. Rep. Mark Finchem and then-Rep. Anthony Kern both have said they were outside the Capitol on Jan. 6, when rioters disrupted the certification of the presidential election. And both have denied any wrongdoing. But Democrats have condemned the duo, with every member of the party's caucus in the Legislature signing a letter to the acting U.S. Attorney General on Jan. 12 that said evidence indicates Finchem and Kern ‘encouraged, facilitated, participated and possibly helped plan this anti-democratic insurrection.’ Lawyers for Finchem, R-Oro Valley, and Kern, R-Glendale, called the Democrats' letter a smear, filing suit Friday in Yuma County Superior Court. Fernandez resides in Yuma. ‘The purpose of the First Amendment is to facilitate and encourage robust debate. Its purpose is not to encourage or facilitate baseless charges of criminal acts by one's political adversaries, for base political purposes. That is the stuff of banana republics,’ attorney Alexander Kolodin wrote in a complaint that included various allegations about the 2020 election and more than one reference to deceased organizer Saul Alinsky.” [Arizona Republic, [3/2/21](#)]

- **April 2022: A judge threw out Finchem’s defamation case brought by Kolodin.** “A judge on Friday threw out a lawsuit by three current and former lawmakers claiming that former state Rep. Charlene Fernandez, D-Yuma, ‘smeared’ their names. Yuma County Superior Court Judge Pro-Tem Levi Gunderson said Fernandez had an absolute First Amendment right to send a letter to federal law enforcement officials asking them to investigate the activities of state Rep. Mark Finchem, R-Oro Valley, former state Rep. Anthony Kern, R-Glendale, and Republican Congressman Paul Gosar in connection with the events around the Jan. 6 riot and breach of the U.S. Capitol.” [Arizona Daily Star, [4/29/22](#)]

February 2022: Kolodin represented Arizona GOP Chair Kelli Ward and other fake electors in a suit to block a subpoena from the January 6 select committee for their phone records. “The Jan. 6 select committee has subpoenaed the phone records of Arizona GOP Chair Kelli Ward and her husband, Michael Ward, who both signed documents falsely claiming to be among their state's presidential electors in 2020. The Wards filed suit Tuesday against the House panel in federal court in Arizona seeking to block the couple's phone provider, T-Mobile, from sharing their records with the committee. [...] T-Mobile did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Alexander Kolodin, an attorney

for the Wards, declined to comment through a spokesperson. Two of the other Arizona electors, Nancy Cottle and Loraine Pellegrino, were subpoenaed as the panel homed in on those chosen to lead the elector delegations. The two, who are also being represented by Kolodin, said in a statement through their attorney they were targeted for ‘exercising their fundamental rights as Americans.’” [Politico, [2/2/22](#)]

- **September 2022: A federal judge allowed the J6 committee to access Kelli Ward’s phone records.** “A federal judge ruled Thursday that the select Congressional committee investigating the riot at the U.S. Capitol on Jan 6, 2021 may subpoena the phone records of the head of Arizona's Republican Party. The Select Committee, in January, sent a subpoena asking for phone records of Kelli Ward, the chairman the Arizona Republican Party, that would have covered activity from November 2020 through January 2021. That span of time would include when Ward convened an uncertified and unauthorized slate of electors to grant Donald Trump the state's electoral votes even though he lost Arizona. Those fake electoral votes were sent to Congress for members to consider counting during its Jan. 6, 2021, session, which was interrupted for hours after the U.S. Capitol was breached by rampaging Trump supporters.” [Arizona Republic, [9/22/22](#)]
- **October 2022: An appeals court turned down Ward’s appeal.** “A federal appeals court has turned down former Arizona GOP senate candidate Kelli Ward's attempt to block a House committee subpoena for her phone records in connection with an investigation into the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol building and other events related to the 2020 presidential election. [...] Ward's lawyer, Alexander Kolodin, expressed disappointment in the court's ruling. ‘I am skeptical of the majority's reasoning that ‘The investigation, after all, is not about Ward's politics,’ Kolodin told POLITICO via email. ‘But Judge Ikuta's dissent is a fiery defense of the first amendment in an age that seems to have forgotten it. As long as judges like her exist, there is still hope for America.’” [Politico, [10/22/22](#)]
- **October 2022: The Supreme Court delayed the order for Ward to turn over her phone records.** “The Supreme Court has granted a brief reprieve to Arizona GOP Chairwoman Kelli Ward on a subpoena to turn over her phone records to the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection. Justice Elena Kagan late Wednesday stayed a lower court's ruling until at least Friday, when she ordered the committee to reply to Ward's claims that a subpoena of her phone records violates her free association rights. In her request for an administrative stay, Ward argued that the subpoena from the House Select Committee Investigating the January 6th Attack on the U.S. Capitol was not meant to find evidence about the attack, but merely to target Republicans whose names would show up in her phone and who would be probed by committee investigators. ‘This is about whether the First Amendment still exists, right?’ asked Alexander Kolodin, Ward's attorney. ‘Whether a federal investigator can come and subpoena your communications with your political party if the rival party gets control ... and if you lose an election that you can expect federal investigators to knock on your door.’” [Cronkite News, [10/28/22](#)]
- **November 2022: The Supreme Court cleared the way for the J6 committee to obtain Ward’s phone records.** “The Supreme Court has cleared the way for the House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol to get phone records belonging to the leader of the Arizona Republican Party. The high court on Monday rejected GOP state chair Kelli Ward's request to halt the turnover of records while a lawsuit proceeds. The court lifted a temporary order that had been put in place by Justice Elena Kagan that had paused anything from happening while Ward's emergency request was at the Supreme Court. [...] ‘We’re glad that two

justices thought that the First Amendment associational interests implicated by the case were serious enough to warrant even the drastic step of a Supreme Court emergency stay,' said Alexander Kolodin, Ward's attorney. 'And we hope that lawmakers and officials that might think of targeting people for engaging in First Amendment protected political association will hear this as a warning shot and think twice before doing it.'" [Associated Press, [11/14/22](#)]

April 2022: Kolodin represented Rep. Paul Gosar in a lawsuit attempting to throw Gosar off the ballot because of his involvement in January 6. "Attorneys representing two Republican congressmen and a GOP state House member running to be Arizona's top election official urged a judge in Phoenix Wednesday to dismiss lawsuits that allege they are ineligible for the November ballot because they participated in or helped organize the Jan. 6, 2021, rally in Washington that ended with an unprecedented attack on Congress. [...] Attorney Alexander Kolodin, representing Gosar, said the lawsuits ignore the free speech rights in the 1st Amendment and the Arizona Constitution. And he said there are least needs to be a crime for the 14th Amendment to apply. 'I want to note at the onset that it is absurd to claim that a sitting member of the U.S. Congress advocated for the overthrow of the United States government,' Kolodin said." [Associated Press, [4/20/22](#)]

- **Kolodin called the attempt to disqualify Gosar "an attempt to suppress conservative speech and punish it."** "A judge has dismissed a lawsuit challenging the rights of three Arizona Republicans to run for office over their participation in rallies that led to the violent Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol. [...] Gosar's lawyer, Alexander Kolodin, said the lawsuit was a broad attack on free speech. 'I see it as an attempt to suppress conservative speech and punish it,' he said. 'The impetus for the suit ... is to establish some precedent to punish conservatives for speech they don't like.'" [Arizona Republic, [4/22/22](#)]

March 2023: Kolodin supported legislation sanctioning judges and the State Bar of Arizona for disciplining lawyers who file frivolous lawsuits. "A Glendale state senator who calls reports of a riot on Jan. 6 'a sham' is now going after judges who sanction attorneys for filing what he believes are 'good faith' claims on behalf of clients. But Republican Anthony Kern insists it has nothing to do with his own lawyers being ordered to pay \$75,000 in legal fees after he and two other lawmakers filed what a judge concluded was a frivolous lawsuit against another legislator over his role in that 2021 event at the U.S. Capitol. [...] But Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, who is an attorney, said it goes beyond legal fees to the other part of SB 1092 which would penalize the State Bar of Arizona for disciplining lawyers for filing what the legislation says are 'meritorious' lawsuits. 'As is well known, our firm engages in many politically charged cases,' said Kolodin, who sits on the Judiciary Committee and voted to advance Kern's measure to the full House. That includes ongoing litigation he filed on behalf of the Arizona Republican Party that a 1991 law allowing anyone to vote early is unconstitutional, a claim that has so far failed to gain traction with the courts. 'We always have random people file Bar complaints against us,' Kolodin said. And they're not coming from clients. 'It's just random people who are pissed off that conservatives are getting a voice or at least the conservatives they don't like are getting a voice in court,' he said. 'And so, it does, indeed, make it a very aggravating situation.'" [Arizona Daily Star, [3/15/23](#)]

OTHER NOTABLE STANCES

COVID

2021: Kolodin represented a teacher seeking to halt the Phoenix Union High School District's mask mandate. "A Phoenix science teacher is asking a judge to put a halt to a districtwide mask

mandate, which goes against a new state law, district officials said Tuesday. Richard Franco, a spokesman for Phoenix Union High School District, confirmed Douglas Hester's filing for a temporary restraining order on the mandate. The superintendent and governing board members are named as defendants in the motion. [...] Phoenix Union, which resumed classes Monday, has about 28,000 students and 4,000 employees. Its governing board made the decision to enforce indoor mask-wearing last week. Hester is listed on the district website as a biology, environmental science and math teacher at Metro Tech High School. 'No school district is above the law,' Alexander Kolodin, Hester's attorney, told The Arizona Republic. 'We are pleased to take action on behalf of this brave teacher to ensure government bodies follow state law.'" [Associated Press, [8/3/21](#)]

Choice

2023: Kolodin supported Arizona's territorial-era anti-abortion law. "The Arizona House approved expanding, in law, rules for when child support must be paid in a way some Democrats say is really designed to outlaw abortion. Current law says courts, when making an initial award, can make it retroactive to the date when a divorce or support proceeding was filed. House Bill 2502, approved Monday by the Republican-led House, would require judges to go back farther, to the 'date of a positive pregnancy test confirmed by a licensed health care professional.' [...] Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Phoenix, said he didn't understand the fuss. He said HB 2502 is designed to help women who can use the extra money for pregnancy expenses. Kolodin said HB 2502 can't be about banning abortion. "State law already prohibits it," he said. He pointed to a territorial-era law, still on the Arizona books, outlawing the procedure except to save the life of the mother. Kolodin is among several lawmakers who say last year's high court decision overturning Roe vs. Wade makes that law enforceable again. Kolodin, an attorney, acknowledged that's not how the Arizona Court of Appeals sees it. The judges there said a 2022 Arizona law banning abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy takes precedence. That case is now before the Arizona Supreme Court. But Kolodin said he is confident the justices will overturn the appellate court ruling and once again outlaw abortion, with or without what is in HB 2502." [Arizona Daily Star, [3/13/23](#)]

- **2024: Kolodin voted to block a repeal of Arizona's 1864 ban on abortion with no exceptions.** "All but one Republican in the Arizona House blocked a motion Wednesday to bring to a vote a repeal of the state's recently resurrected 1864 ban on abortion, which has no exceptions for rape or incest. [...] When efforts to move forward a repeal failed on Wednesday, Rep. Alex Kolodin of Scottsdale rejoiced in Republicans' efforts to block the motion to vote on the repeal. 'We held the line for what we as Republicans know is right,' said Kolodin, who then received a rebuke from Republican Speaker Pro Tempore Travis Grantham for addressing noisy supporters of the abortion ban in the gallery and eliciting applause. 'For now, we kept our soul, we kept our faith for one more week.'" [Phoenix New Times, [4/19/24](#)]
- **Kolodin attacked Republicans who voted to repeal the ban: "Legalizing abortion up until birth is not going to help us win an election."** "Arizona's Republican-controlled House voted Wednesday to overturn the state's 1864 ban on nearly all abortions. The vote paves the way for a repeal that would revert Arizona abortion law to a 15-week ban. The measure, which now heads to the state Senate for a vote next week, passed Arizona's House on Wednesday by a vote of 32 to 28 as three Republicans joined with Democrats. [...] 'We're willing to kill infants in order to win an election,' Republican state Rep. Alexander Kolodin countered, as he blasted his colleagues. 'Legalizing abortion up until birth is not going to help us win an election. Politics is important, but it's not worth our souls.'" [United Press International, [4/24/24](#)]

Criminal Justice

2024: Kolodin opposed increasing the penalties for “swatting.” “Following hoax calls in 2023 that triggered police response to Arizona synagogues, a Republican proposal would increase the penalties for ‘swatting’ in the Grand Canyon State. [...] The bill faced pushback from Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, who said the legislature should not be increasing criminal penalties. He suggested that prosecutors could add other charges that would be more appropriate, such as reckless endangerment. Kolodin, who is Jewish himself, also said he was unaware of the swatting of local synagogues. As the bill currently stands, a police response would not necessarily be required in order to trigger the law. Gress said that he anticipates amending the bill to remedy that issue. Marilyn Rodriguez, a lobbyist for the ACLU, said the organization is concerned with increasing the criminal penalty, as the legislation could sweep in other types of speech. Rodriguez cited a recent decision by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals that found a man who was arrested after he posted a joke on Facebook about police shooting people with COVID-19 did not rise to the level of a true threat. Democratic members voted against the measure, while Kolodin voted present in order to prevent the bill from being defeated. ‘I am not going to allow my concern for my faith to override my judgment as an elected official or cause me to contribute further to this distortion of the law,’ Kolodin said when explaining his vote. ‘We need punishments to fit the crime, not just throw the book at everything.’” [Arizona Mirror, [1/31/24](#)]

2025: Kolodin voted against a proposal to end legislative immunity for traffic violations. “But Hobbs also said that immunity for traffic citations makes no sense. And she is backing a proposal to ask voters to amend the constitutional protection to strip lawmakers of the ability to avoid citations for any traffic violations at all, not just those issued by DPS but by any law enforcement agency pulling them over. A proposal to do exactly that cleared its first hurdle Wednesday as was approved by the House Judiciary Committee on 6-3 margin. [...] Three Republicans voted against the measure, with Rep. Alexander Kolodin of Scottsdale arguing that the executive branch now, mainly controlled by Democrats, could use the change to harass lawmakers they don't like. ‘The recent history of this state, and frankly, this Legislature has shown that the executive branch continues to use its ability to enforce the law as a weapon against legislators that it doesn't care for,’ Kolodin said. ‘This is a time to be strengthening legislative immunity so that we can act independently and in defense of our constituents and their values without fear of what the executive branch might do or how they might try to interfere with our discharge of those duties for those reasons.’ Kolodin did not clarify or cite examples.” [KAWC, [2/20/25](#)]

2025: Kolodin sponsored legislation to change Arizona’s method of execution to a firing squad. “Calling the current system inhumane and problematic, a state lawmaker wants to give voters the chance to replace the current method of killing convicted murderers with the firing squad. The proposal by Rep. Alexander Kolodin follows a preliminary report last year by a special ‘death penalty commissioner’ hired by Gov. Katie Hobbs to look into how the state executes criminals by lethal injection. Retired federal magistrate David Duncan reported there is ‘no humane way’ to do that. And Duncan said if the state is to continue with executions, the most humane way of doing that is the firing squad. So now Kolodin, a Scottsdale Republican, wants to put a measure on the 2026 ballot asking voters to approve the change. Kolodin told Capitol Media Services that he believes in the death penalty. But he said the record shows that the current method of execution, one approved by voters in 1992, is filled with problems. ‘I don’t know what it is,’ he said. ‘But lethal injection just seems to be incredibly complicated where it always leads to these delays and these hiccups and whatever.’” [Arizona Capitol Times, [1/17/25](#)]

- **Kolodin said a firing squad was “by far the most humane and expeditious way to dispatch the condemned.”** “Kolodin said during the House debate that the Democratic governor should

have listened to Duncan, ‘her hand-picked expert.’ ‘But instead of taking his advice seriously and asking this body to run a bill to switch our state's method of execution to the firing squad, as the taxpayer-funded independent analysis suggested we should do, she instead chose to fire that independent expert,’ Kolodin said. ‘Well, I, for one, believe that experts' analysis should be taken seriously.’ He said using a firing squad has several advantages over the state's current method. Those include being far cheaper because it would prompt fewer legal challenges, and because bullets are far less expensive than the drugs the state must search to find and buy. Major drug manufacturers refuse to sell their products for use in executions. ‘It is also quicker and has a lower failure rate, and is by far the most humane and expeditious way to dispatch the condemned,’ Kolodin said.” [KAWC, [3/3/25](#)]

2025: Kolodin was accused of being “soft on crime” after voting against a bill to create a new crime of "swarming.” “State representatives approved legislation to create a new crime of ‘swarming’ that police and prosecutors say they need to bring serious charges against gang members who assault others. But according to foes, what it may also do is turn what could have been a schoolyard fight into a crime that sends those involved to prison for 2.5 years or more. House Bill 2611 was prompted by a series of incidents in the Phoenix area's East Valley over more than a year where a gang of teens known as the Gilbert Goons was beating others up. One incident in particular got public attention: the 2023 beating death of 16-year-old Preston Lord at a Halloween party in Queen Creek. [...] Scottsdale Republican Rep. Alexander Kolodin said creating an entirely new crime is unnecessary. ‘Preston Lord's killers were charged with murder and a variety of other crimes,’ he said. ‘Our criminal laws are sufficient to put them away for the rest of their lives.’ Nor does he think that, had Gress' proposal been law, it would have prevented the death. ‘Preston Lord's murderers had previously committed aggravated assault by our current definition of aggravated assault,’ Kolodin said. What went wrong, he said, was not the laws on the books but the responses of those charged with enforcing them. ‘The people responsible for Preston Lord's death are the town of Gilbert and the Maricopa County Attorney's Office,’ Kolodin said, saying both were aware for years of the gang attacks. That brought a sharp rebuke from [Republican Maricopa County Attorney Rachel] Mitchell, who told Capitol Media Services it was ‘another sign of him being soft on crime.’ Kolodin, however, told colleagues they need to look closely at the breadth of what they're approving. ‘It sends our kids to jail for a very long time for a very serious felony for getting into a fight at school that does not cause serious physical injury to anyone,’ he said.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [3/3/25](#)]

First Amendment

2023: Kolodin chaired a panel investigating “government censorship” and Gov. Katie Hobbs' social media behavior. “House Speaker Ben Toma has formed a special panel designed, at least in part, to investigate the activities of Katie Hobbs before she was governor. On paper, the three-member panel is charged with examining ‘government censorship and conduct of state executive officials.’ But the announcement comes less than 24 hours after a new report on the internet that Hobbs used her position as secretary of state in 2020 to get Twitter now X to take down new responses critical of her 2017 post comparing supporters of Donald Trump to Nazis. Toma, a Peoria Republican, tapped first-term state Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale to chair it. And Kolodin told Capitol Media Services called the timing ‘an interesting coincidence.’ [...] Kolodin told Capitol Media Services the special panel is about more than Hobbs' activities. ‘There has never been a really comprehensive legislative investigation into the way we are protecting or failing to protect the First Amendment in this new age of machine learning and neural networks and algorithms that decide what people are served online,’ he said. ‘It's something that we want to make sure that we have the information that we need to craft intelligent legislation that aims to protect the First Amendment rights of Arizonans in the digital age.’ Yet the committee is charged only with investigating the activities of those in the executive branch. ‘I don't think there's ever

been any reports that the Legislature has been trying to decide or curate or censor online speech,' Kolodin responded, offering to add that to the panel's task if someone presents such information. But even before any hearings, the Scottsdale Republican is questioning Hobbs' claim that she had a right to file a complaint with Twitter about the 2020 postings. 'There comes a point where it crosses the line into state action,' Kolodin said. 'And part of what this committee is going to investigate is where is that point.'" [Capitol Media Services, [8/12/23](#)]

2023: Kolodin opposed a Republican-led bill to require ID to access internet pornography. "State lawmakers are struggling to find a way to keep minors from accessing internet porn. So far, they've come up short in finding a legal, effective and politically acceptable plan to block access. The original proposal by Sen. Wendy Rogers would have required anyone seeking to access 'explicit sexual material' to first provide the website with a government-issued identification proving age. [...] 'I think we all want to make sure that internet pornography is not being distributed to children,' Rep. Alexander Kolodin said as the measure, Senate Bill 1503, first came to the floor. But he said SB1503, as approved by the Senate, goes beyond that. He said it would require adults who want to view those materials to register with documents that could wind up in the hands of the government. 'That's a constitutional problem,' said Kolodin, a Scottsdale Republican. The issue for Kolodin, and a handful of other Republicans who found the plan unacceptable, goes beyond the legal questions. 'I know it's not like a fun thing to say as a politician,' he told Capitol Media Services. 'I do not trust the government even a little bit. Why would I want to give the government that kind of power?' He pointed to the power that would be in the hands of officials who know who has signed up to download what some define as pornography. 'It's a way for the government to try to blackmail people,' Kolodin said. 'It's a way for the government to try to scare off people from what materials they consume.'" [Arizona Daily Star, [4/20/23](#)]

- **Kolodin: "The government doesn't get to say 'This speech is socially undesirable, consume less of it.'"** "As for the bill's goals, 'Yes, it is socially desirable to reduce pornography viewership, I suppose,' he said. 'But the government doesn't get to say 'This speech is socially undesirable, consume less of it,' said the attorney and first-term lawmaker. 'That is emphatically not our role.' The opposition by Kolodin and a few other Republicans, coupled with the unanimous vote against SB1503 by Democrats, doomed that version to defeat." [Arizona Daily Star, [4/20/23](#)]

2023: Kolodin: "This is a country where, in order for me to be free, I have to protect their right to say things that I hate." "Rep. Alexander Kolodin, a Scottsdale Republican who is Jewish, said while he hates the people who spew antisemitic rhetoric, as a free speech absolutist, he will always fight for their right to do so. 'This is a country where, in order for me to be free, I have to protect their right to say things that I hate,' he said, making it clear that he believes hate speech is protected by the First Amendment. Kolodin added that he would be open to pulling funding from student groups who express antisemitism as well as not allowing student activity fees to go to those groups. He also espoused the controversial view that students should be free to carry guns on campus to protect themselves. Arizona law currently bans firearms on school grounds." [Arizona Mirror, [12/12/23](#)]

2025: Kolodin voted for chaplains in public schools. "Saying God is needed in schools, the Arizona House has approved allowing chaplains in public school classrooms. Senate Bill 1269 would allow, but not require, school boards to invite chaplains from various religions into schools to provide "support, services or programs" to students. There would be parental buy-in, including a list of available chaplains. And proponents say it is crafted in a way to prohibit participants from proselytizing. [...] Scottsdale Republican Rep. Alexander Kolodin said his own life experiences lead him to consider the proposal a good thing. 'Not everybody loves Jews,' he told colleagues. 'And that was certainly the case while I was in school. And I kind of wish I'd had the opportunity to have a chaplain of my religion in

school while I was dealing with some of that stuff because I think it could have helped.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [4/15/25](#)]

- **Kolodin: “You shouldn't have to pay tens and tens of thousands of dollars for a private education to get the peace and comfort that comes from being around people who are of God.”** “Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, said private schools, and their faith-based curriculum, are simply out of reach for many people, even with ESA vouchers. ‘You shouldn't have to pay tens and tens of thousands of dollars for a private education to get the peace and comfort that comes from being around people who are of God,’ he said.” [Phoenix Independent, [4/18/25](#)]

2026: Kolodin objected to testimony in a legislative committee calling for a ban on minarets and Muslim worship practices. “Henshaw's comments angered Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale. 'I do find that kind of advocacy repugnant to the spirit of the First Amendment,' Kolodin said of her request to ban minarets and other religious practices. 'Please be familiar with the country you are trying to protect and its constitution.' Both bills passed along party lines, though Kolodin voiced concerns about HCM2002 and said he felt that some of the requests being made fall more under the purview of a court of law. 'Both sides of the argument here made me uncomfortable,' Kolodin said, adding that Quezada saying that CAIR has no 'formal' relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood gave him pause. He also questioned if the Holy Land case was strong enough to prove CAIR guilty by association. 'For today, I will be an aye.’” [Arizona Mirror, [1/21/26](#)]

2023: Arizona State University cancelled an event featuring Rep. Rashida Tlaib after a complaint from Kolodin and other state legislators over her views. “Arizona State University canceled an event featuring Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) on Friday after a statement from state lawmakers that the congresswoman's "extremist, antisemitic views" were not welcome in the Copper State. Tlaib was scheduled to attend an event titled "Palestine is an American Issue" on Friday afternoon hosted by the Arizona Palestine Network, a pro-Palestinian group. However, a university spokesperson told the Arizona Republic on Friday that the event was canceled over procedural problems. [...] The event's cancellation comes a day after a bipartisan group of four Arizona lawmakers Republican state Reps. Michael Carbone and Alexander Kolodin and Democratic state Reps. Alma Hernandez and Consuelo Hernandez wrote a letter responding to the Students for Justice in Palestine hosting Tlaib at the university's Tempe campus. ‘The State of Arizona is a safe place for Jews, both on and off campus, and the antisemitic rants regurgitated by SJP and others are not representative of Arizona values,’ the lawmakers said. ‘Students supporting Israel have been verbally and physically assaulted on campus in recent days, requiring police escort during SJP rallies.’” [Associated Press, [11/17/23](#)]

Guns

2023: Kolodin voted to allow parents to bring loaded guns onto school campuses. “House lawmakers voted Wednesday to let certain parents bring their loaded guns onto school campuses despite the fact they themselves are protected by rules and a metal detector that keep their armed constituents out. Existing laws now prohibit loaded firearms on public school, college and university campuses. SB 1331 would create an exemption saying that doesn't apply to parents or guardians of children who attend that school provided they have a state-issued permit to carry a concealed weapon. [...] But Kolodin, in supporting the legislation, said it doesn't go far enough. The way he sees it, carrying a concealed weapon is a ‘constitutional right’ and there should be no requirement to get a permit to do so.” [Arizona Daily Star, [3/10/23](#)]

2023: Kolodin joked about shooting a committee witness if she disagreed with his parenting choices. “Comments by state Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, in the House Judiciary Committee and on Twitter on March 29 drew immediate comparisons to the March 28 tweet by Hobbs' former spokesperson, Josselyn Berry, which resulted in her resignation. Kolodin had been debating in the committee with a speaker about Senate Bill 1323, which calls for felony charges against school officials who unlawfully refer students to or use ‘sexually explicit material in any manner.’ ‘I have the right to have a unique way of raising my child,’ Kolodin told speaker Ashley Chambers, executive director for Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice, which opposes the bill. ‘For example, I’m Jewish. We circumcise our kids, and people think that’s really weird, right? That’s my right and if you try to take it away from me, I’ll shoot you, you know.’ Neither Chambers nor the bill’s sponsor, Sen. Jake Hoffman, R-Queen Creek, had mentioned circumcision or religion in regard to the bill at that point. Chambers laughed nervously at the ‘shoot you’ comment but showed no further reaction at the time. Chambers told The Arizona Republic later that, speaking for herself and not her organization, she was not surprised by his words. ‘I hope he was joking,’ she said. ‘I hope that in the future he takes gun safety and his statements about how guns should be used more seriously.’ After Kolodin doubled down on the comments on Twitter, an online spat erupted as other commenters joined in, becoming another example of the national tension over gun policy and the polarization of partisan viewpoints.” [Arizona Republic, [3/31/23](#)]

- **Kolodin called critics of his shooting joke “antisemitic” and “Nazis.”** “Kolodin, a lawyer who’s serving his first term in office, said in an interview the comparison to Berry’s tweet ‘doesn’t track’ due to context and he stands by his statements. But he acknowledged that he probably could have worded his tweets better. His posts on the theme began after 8 p.m. March 29, when Twitter user Patrick Camunez suggested on the social media platform that Kolodin’s on the ‘shoot them’ comment might be newsworthy. In another tweet, Camunez said he thought Kolodin should apologize. The Arizona House Democrats Twitter account had noted the comment in a post just after noon that day. Kolodin escalated the rhetoric in a tweet, calling Camunez ‘antisemitic,’ continuing with ‘The Jews in Nazi Germany didn’t have the second amendment, I do. You got a problem with that?’ That’s when Trevor Nelson, a Scottsdale constituent in Kolodin’s Legislative District 3, jumped into the fray, accusing Kolodin of repeating ‘actual threats of violence’ and telling the lawmaker to resign. Kolodin then called Nelson a ‘Nazi.’ He retweeted a 2011 Politico article about a potential ballot measure in San Francisco that would have banned circumcisions. A judge later struck the measure from the ballot because of a California state law that designated the regulating of medical procedures strictly a state matter. Nelson denied Kolodin’s accusation, but Kolodin plowed on, saying Nelson had the ‘right to advocate for Nazi ideology,’ but if ‘you try to use the state to impose Nazi crap on me, well... I’m a good shot.’ He later added, ‘I love assault rifles. They’re good for shooting Nazis.’” [Arizona Republic, [3/31/23](#)]

2025: Kolodin sponsored legislation to repeal all state restrictions on ownership of machine guns, grenades, improved explosive devices, and more. “A Republican lawmaker wants to repeal the Arizona law banning people from owning machine guns, silencers, sawed-off shotguns and even pipe bombs and other homemade explosive devices. While federal law would still sharply restrict ownership of those deadly weapons, Rep. Alexander Kolodin’s ‘Shall Not Be Infringed Act’ would make it impossible for local prosecutors to go after anyone who has those weapons, even if they’re breaking federal law to do so. And that is exactly the point, Kolodin said. ‘What this bill says is, if the feds want to infringe on our Second Amendment rights, they can darn well pay for doing that themselves, and we’re not going to have Arizona law enforcement do it,’ the Scottsdale Republican told the Arizona Mirror.” [Arizona Mirror, [2/5/25](#)]

- **Kolodin: “Our framers intended us to have those weapons of war to keep the government, which is our servant, in check.”** “‘Our framers (of the Constitution) intended us to have those weapons of war to keep the government, which is our servant, in check,’ Kolodin told colleagues on the committee. ‘If the right to bear arms ‘shall not be infringed,’ how can we have a category of weapons that are prohibited?’ he continued. ‘As a citizen of this state, I find it insulting.’ And Kolodin argued this is even bigger than constitutional guarantees, saying he wants to ‘reclaim the liberty that God has really given us because that’s where our rights come from.’ His arguments about citizens having the same weapons as the government took on religious overtones, saying the issue is ‘very personal’ for him as a Jew. ‘Historically, a lot of people haven’t cared for us Jews and, in fact, tried to kill us,’ Kolodin said. ‘Right now our government ... is putting a restriction on my ability to defend myself and my family,’ he continued. “And they’re not putting a cop outside of my door at night.’ More to the point, he said that’s not the duty of the government. Instead, said Kolodin, people have a duty to defend themselves. That ability, he said, is what made life better for his family than for Jews who stayed in Europe in the 20th century who ‘had an awful time.’ ‘It’s time for the state to get out of the way,’ said Kolodin.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [2/13/25](#)]

Higher Education

2024: Kolodin sponsored legislation to allow college students to opt out of funding campus organizations they dislike. “Last week, Gov. Katie Hobbs signed a bill allowing students at Arizona’s state universities to opt out of having their student activity fees support campus groups they don’t like. The new law will require all three of the state’s public universities to give every student the opportunity to choose which clubs or organizations they don’t want their fees to support. If students don’t select any specific clubs to withhold their funding from, the university is free to allocate the funds to any program open to all students on campus. Rep. Alexander Kolodin, a Scottsdale Republican, said that he introduced House Bill 2178 to give Jewish students the option to not have their student activity fees go towards pro-Palestinian groups on campus. Kolodin, who is Jewish, said those groups use their platform on campus to call for ‘the annihilation of (Jewish) people.’ ‘Our bill is an attempt to balance the first amendment rights of the students who participate in clubs like Students for Justice in Palestine with the rights of (Jewish) students ... not to be compelled to help them speak,’ Kolodin told the House Education Committee in January when it considered the measure.” [Arizona Mirror, [4/15/24](#)]

2025: Kolodin supported legislation to eliminate state funding for universities that offer courses on diversity, equity and inclusion. “The Arizona House is set to vote as early as this week on whether to eliminate state funds for universities and colleges that offer courses on diversity, equity and inclusion. [...] During House debate this past week, lawmakers focused on different sections. Rep. Alexander Kolodin, a Scottsdale Republican, cited language that bars state funding of colleges whose courses ‘promote the differential treatment of any individual or group of individuals based on race or ethnicity in contemporary American society.’ He said the bill also would include any course that promotes the idea that a student is biased on account of that student’s race or sex. He called all that ‘just common sense.’ Kolodin also noted it does not prohibit discussion of ‘historical movements, ideologies or instances of racial hatred or race-based discrimination’ such as slavery, removal of Indians from their land, and the internment of Japanese-Americans. But that’s not absolute: The measure does say those could not be taught if they violate the broader guidelines, like the ones talking about systemic racism, implicit bias and race-based privilege.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [4/7/25](#)]

2025: Kolodin opposed a bill to ban student protest “encampments” because he thought it would be used to target conservative groups. “It’s going to become a state crime for protesters -- and others -- set up encampments at state universities despite some concerns that the measure is unnecessary. Gov. Katie Hobbs penned her approval Wednesday to legislation which will require school administrators to direct those involved to “immediately dismantle the encampment and vacate the campus.” And those who do not comply would be subject to arrest on charges of trespass. [...] As approved, the new law bans not just any overnight temporary shelters or tents but also makes it illegal for these items remain ‘for a prolonged period of time.’ That language caught the attention of Rep. Alexander Kolodin. What that would include, said the Scottsdale Republican, is a shade and table set up by a conservative group like Turning Point USA while it is seeking to register voters on the campus. Ditto, Kolodin said, of ‘pro-life organizations when they’re handing out literature.’ And he made no secret of his belief that enforcement will end up being based on who is affected. ‘Let’s not fool ourselves about who runs these universities,’ Kolodin said. ‘Is this bill really going to be used against Students for Justice in Palestine? Probably not,’ he said. ‘It is going to get used against Turning Point and pro-life organizations? Far more likely.’” [Arizona Capitol Times, [5/8/25](#)]

Immigration and ICE Enforcement

2024: Kolodin supported legislation to allow police to arrest people who entered the country illegally and called immigration an “invasion.” “Saying the federal government has failed Arizona, state lawmakers voted Wednesday to let police here start arresting people who have entered the country illegally. [...] And what does Hobbs think of the latest effort led by Republican lawmakers? ‘SB 1231 is unconstitutional, will not secure the border and will drive away businesses and jobs from Arizona,’ Slater said. ‘She will not sign it.’ Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, may have foreseen her arguments and her response. ‘The Constitution reserves to the states the right of self-defense when Congress cannot act expeditiously in the face of an invasion,’ he said. ‘And, make no mistake, it is an invasion.’ But Kolodin, in his floor speech earlier in the day, acknowledged that Hobbs gets the last word. ‘At the end of the day, Arizonans depend on the occupant of the ninth floor to protect them,’ he said, referring to where Hobbs has her office in the Executive Tower. ‘And I want to know; will Katie Hobbs protect us?’” [Arizona Daily Star, [2/21/24](#)]

2024: Kolodin supported legislation to allow ranchers to legally shoot and kill undocumented immigrants who cross their land. “Arizona Republicans want to let ranchers in southern Arizona legally shoot and kill undocumented immigrants who cross their land. A bill moving through the state House of Representatives would make changes to the state’s existing ‘Castle Doctrine’ law, which permits Arizonans to use deadly force against people who are trespassing or breaking into their home. [...] In committee, Rep. Alex Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, praised the bill for protecting people who could be accused of using excessive force in these situations. ‘This is a great Second Amendment bill, that is also protecting the rights of the accused to make sure we are taking ambiguity out of our law,’ Kolodin said. It passed through committee with a 5-3-1, with every Democrat on the panel voting against it.” [Arizona Mirror, [2/24/24](#)]

2024: Kolodin called for deporting Dreamers: “They have to go back.” “Arizona Republican lawmakers want to deport ‘Dreamers,’ except perhaps one who at least is showing a moment of sanity. Republican Sen. Ken Bennett this week single-handedly stalled the MAGA-backed ‘Secure the Border Act’ that would criminalize border crossers and potentially target young immigrants known as ‘Dreamers.’ Bennett held his support out of concerns over what would happen to the immigrants brought as children to this country — and whom, by the way, the majority of Arizonans want to legalize, not deport. Rep. Alexander Kolodin balked at Bennett telling him on X, formerly Twitter: ‘Senator, they

have to go back.’ Kolodin, who has slammed U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor as ‘undistinguished’ and who the State Bar of Arizona placed on probation over election lawsuits, says that allowing ‘Dreamers’ to stay ‘incentivizes more illegal immigration.’ ‘We already did more than most countries would do for them by educating them and providing in-state tuition. People come here all the time on educational/work visas and then have to return,’ Kolodin said.” [Elvia Diaz Column, Arizona Republic, [5/15/24](#)]

2024: Kolodin compared Arizona’s southern border to the Israel-Hamas conflict. “Rep. Alexander Kolodin, likened Arizona's southern border to the Israel-Hamas conflict, equating migrants with violent terrorists and implying they would destroy Arizona communities. The Scottsdale Republican said that, on a recent trip to a war-torn border town he and other legislators took in March, he was overcome with tears imagining a similar fate for Arizonans. ‘I was thinking to myself: ‘This is what happens when borders fail.’ And I was seeing a picture in my head of Scottsdale what I think is the most beautiful place on Earth in ruins like that,’ he said.” [Arizona Mirror, [6/4/24](#)]

2025: Kolodin supported eliminating birthright citizenship. “State Rep. Alexander Kolodin also said, in an interview with New Times, that he supports reinterpreting birthright citizenship. ‘You’ve just been getting crazy gaming of the system,’ Kolodin said. ‘You have people who fly here to have their children so that their children will have American citizenship and then go back to their countries. This happens with a lot of Chinese, for example. It leads to way too much gamification of the immigration system.’” [Phoenix New Times, [1/23/25](#)]

LGBTQ Issues

2024: Kolodin supported legislation to strictly classify individuals on the basis of their biological sex at birth. “Saying they are protecting women, House Republicans gave final approval Wednesday to legislation to strictly classify individuals under Arizona law on the basis of their biological sex when they were born. SB 1628, approved on a party-line 31-28 vote, would replace every reference to ‘gender’ in state law with ‘sex.’ The former generally refers to how people identify themselves versus the latter which would be determined by biology at birth. [...] Rep. Lorena Austin, D-Mesa, called the measure ‘another example of the national narrative across the country that attacks LGBTQ+ people.’ But Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, said for him it's a simple question. ‘Men and women who are minors should not be showering together in a school environment,’ he said. ‘I think that's common sense,’ Kolodin said. ‘It's the kind of common sense this GOP majority delivers time and again.’ The measure now needs to be reconciled with a slightly different version that was approved by the Senate before going to the governor.” [Arizona Daily Star, [4/3/24](#)]

2024: Kolodin wanted to include calling for the overturning the Obergefell decision in the Republican Party platform. “State Rep. Alexander Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, an at-large delegate, said changes to the platform on same-sex marriage and abortion could help in the fall, ‘in the sense of it's a reason not to vote against us, perhaps.’ He would have preferred to see the new platform call for the Obergefell ruling to be overturned as legally flawed, though he foresees a backlash if that happened: ‘You'd probably get gay marriage legalized in most states.’” [Cronkite News, [7/18/24](#)]

2025: Kolodin voted for legislation to ban transgender Arizonans from amending their birth certificate to reflect their gender identity. “Republican lawmakers in the Arizona House of Representatives have passed another anti-transgender bill that would bar trans people born in Arizona from amending their birth certificates to reflect their gender identity. Rep. Rachel Keshel, the Tucson Republican and member of the far-right Arizona Freedom Caucus who sponsored the bill, claimed that its purpose was only to bring the state's birth certificate law in line with the U.S. Constitution and to

protect ‘the integrity and accuracy of vital records.’ [...] During discussions about Keshel's bill in committee on Feb. 5 and on the House floor on Feb. 19, Kolodin mocked transgender Arizonans' desire to have a birth certificate that reflects their gender identity. ‘I don't have a constitutional right to have a different birthday on my birth certificate,’ Kolodin said during committee on Feb. 5, because ‘maybe I don't like my horoscope.’ Instead, he said, lawmakers should choose to view gender as an immutable physical quality equal to sex, which he described as the ‘sane Republican way.’” [Arizona Mirror, [2/21/25](#)]