

MARICOPA COUNTY RECORDER

In 2024, Maricopa County, Arizona will elect a new Recorder, a position that holds power over voter registration and early voting. In late July, incumbent Republican Stephen Richer, a defender of election integrity in the county despite withering attacks from his own party, lost his primary bid for reelection. Maricopa County is the most populous county in Arizona and one of the largest voting jurisdictions in the country. The area has become a breeding ground for voting conspiracies in recent years. Republican State Rep. Justin Heap, backed by the far-right Freedom Caucus and other conservative groups, will face military veteran and attorney Timothy Stringham, a Democrat, in the November general election.

Key Findings

Justin Heap has sowed doubts about the outcomes of elections in 2020 and 2022, calling Maricopa County a “laughingstock” on the issue of election integrity. In a 2024 interview, Heap declined to directly answer whether he thought Donald Trump and Kari Lake won elections in Arizona in 2020 and 2022 respectively. “I think that many people were disenfranchised and may have affected the outcome,” he said. He has said Maricopa County has “the worst run elections in America,” and called the county “the laughingstock of our nation and the world.” A 2024 Arizona Mirror article noted that “Heap’s...record...and his statements...show that he is, at minimum, sympathetic to election deniers—if not a believer in election conspiracies himself...While he has walked a fine line without flat-out admitting he thinks Maricopa County elections are rigged, Heap has voted in favor of bills that would ban electronic tabulation of ballots and force hand counts, that would eliminate the option to vote early for most Arizonans and that would bar the use of voting centers to be replaced by precincts capped at 1,000 registered voters each.”

Heap supports reforms proposed or supported by election denialists. According to PBS reporter Stephanie Sy, “Heap did support some of the election reforms in the state legislature that were proposed by election denialists.” In 2024, Heap proposed an unsuccessful bill that would have removed Arizona from a multistate effort to maintain voter lists. Heap has vowed to clean the voter rolls. Heap co-sponsored a ballot-chain-of-custody bill (HB 2851), saying “I’m concerned, after multiple election cycles, every time after the elections there’s stories that appear everywhere, pictures of concern from voters that ballots are being injected in, that vans are pulling up moving those ballots.” Heap led a ballot proposal to allow Arizona to run its own census starting in 2030 and to use only the citizen-count to redraw state legislative districts, claiming it was a way to ensure that legislative districts are drawn without using what he called a skewed system that counts everyone instead of just people who are potentially eligible to vote. Additionally, he co-sponsored legislation that aimed to divide Maricopa County into several smaller jurisdictions, an efforts spearheaded by some conservatives to dilute county officials’ influence. Heap called for capping voting precincts at 1,000 to 1,500 voters, and argued that many of the problems that voters experienced in Maricopa County experienced when malfunctioning printers caused long lines and tabulation issues would be fixed by reverting back to using precincts. Per the Arizona Republic, Heap supported legislation to allow any elected official in the state to bring an expert of their choice to inspect voting equipment in any jurisdiction. Heap argued that banning electronic voting would regain the public’s trust in elections, saying, “whether or not there was voter fraud or not in the election is really irrelevant to this committee because the fact is that a large percentage of our voting base does not have confidence in our elections. And if that is the case, then it becomes the duty of the Legislature to act to address this to give people confidence by passing laws.” Heap said “our courts are not very good at handling election challenges,” arguing that courts generally operate on a much slower timeline than is needed to resolve election contests, and said House Bill 2472 was ultimately about extending the time that those challenging election results had to review evidence.

[ABC15 has reported](#) that while “Heap stops short of saying the 2020 and 2022 elections were stolen... (he) said thousands of Republican voters don’t have faith in the county’s election operations...Heap said the county has insecure practices for handling early ballots.”

Heap’s enjoys the support of radicals like Andy Biggs, Paul Gosar, Joe Arpaio, and Kari Lake. Heap has been endorsed by Reps. Eli Crane, Andy Biggs, and Paul Gosar and former Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who have questioned the integrity of Arizona’s elections. According to the Phoenix News Times, Heap “pals around with election deniers in the state legislature, including Arizona Freedom Caucus leader Sen. Jake Hoffman, one of Arizona’s fake electors who was indicted in May for his alleged role in attempting to overturn the 2020 presidential election.” Per their reporting, Hoffman serves as Heap’s chief strategist and consultant for his recorder campaign. Though Heap has said he did not vote for Trump in the 2016 primary and called the former president “polarizing,” Heap joined Trump at a rally in Arizona and has said he voted for him in 2016 and 2020 and will vote for him again in 2024. According to Arizona Republic’s Laurie Roberts, two fake electors stood behind Heap during his press conference announcing his candidacy for recorder. Heap replied “Lol” when a fellow MAGA supporter posted a GIF mocking Republican Supervisor Bill Gates, after Gates announced he had been diagnosed with PTSD following years of threats to his family from election denialists. Heap has also been endorsed by election denier Kari Lake, who claimed Heap wanted to “rebuild voter trust.” Additionally, Heap said Kari Lake’s case would be dismissed “not because the evidence is insufficient or her legal team is incapable,” but “because the Court has intentionally set the bar SO HIGH that it would be impossible for anyone to prevail As a trial attorney this appears, in my opinion, to be Court-imposed elevated standards of proof intended to guarantee dismissal, while preserving the appearance of impartiality.”

Heap is radically anti-choice and anti-reproductive rights, and voted against a bill to repeal Arizona’s near-total ban on abortion from 1864. In 2024, Heap voted against HB2677, which repealed the near-total ban on abortion dating back to 1864. Heap has said abortion is “killing an innocence (sic) child.” Heap, who has said he’s “fine” with an abortion exception for rape cases, called doctors who provide abortion care a “small ghoulish clique...most people who choose to be OBGYNs do so because they love babies and want to assist in birth, not because they want to crush babies’ heads with clamps and pull their bodies (sic) parts out with forceps...” Heap has said abortion “is almost NEVER medically necessary,” and that “the only goal of abortion is to destroy new life.”

Heap has held a fundraising advantage in the race. According to pre-primary reports filed July 2024, Heap reported a balance of \$87,386.52. He reported receiving \$138,020.85 to date in the election cycle and disbursing \$50,634.33. Stringham reported a closing balance of \$29,278.92. He reported receiving \$77,1787.24 to date in the election cycle and disbursing \$47,908.32.

Heap missed campaign finance deadlines and repeatedly fail to list contributions from political action committees on his legislative campaign finance reports. In April 2024, Heap filed his campaign finance report a day late. According to the Arizona Republic, Heap has repeatedly failed to list contributions from political action committees on his legislative campaign finance reports, per their analysis of records from the Arizona Secretary of State’s Office. The day he launched his run for county record, Heap turned in a campaign finance report summarizing his campaign account activities in 2023. The report came 43 days past the deadline and failed to list \$2,550 in political campaign contributions from the Arizona Association of Realtors, electric utility Arizona Public Service and other organizations. Heap claimed he didn’t report the contributions because he did not deposit them into his campaign. Per the Arizona Republic, Heap’s 2022 campaign finance reports omitted nearly \$3,000 in campaign contributions from a variety of political action committees.

While serving as a state representative, Heap responded to a lobbyist’s request for a meeting by asking whether the firm had financially supported his campaign. According to the Washington Post, Heap received an email from a lobbyist seeking to meet with him. In responding, he asked whether the firm she works for had financially supported his campaign. “I need to prioritize which meetings I can take,” he wrote in the email obtained by The Post through a public records request. “May I ask you, Did Consortium [sic] Consulting donate to my campaign fund? And if not, why did you (or your clients) decide not to do so?”

JUSTIN HEAP

BACKGROUND

Heap claims to be a sixth-generation Arizonan. “A sixth-generation Arizonan, Representative Justin Heap is a dedicated public servant with a strong commitment to serving the people of Maricopa County. With a diverse background in law and public service, Justin brings a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective to the role of County Recorder.” [justinheap.com, accessed [8/20/24](#)]

Heap earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Arizona State University and a law degree from the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law. “Justin earned his Bachelor's Degree in History from Arizona State University then went on to pursue a Law Degree from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, where he honed his skills as a legal advocate.” [justinheap.com, accessed [8/20/24](#)]

- **Heap served a prosecutor and civil liberties attorney.** “As a former prosecutor and civil liberties attorney, Justin has a deep understanding of the law and a proven track record as a champion of individual liberty and constitutional principles.” [justinheap.com, accessed [8/20/24](#)]
- **2006-2008: Heap received a J.D. from Arizona State University College of Law.** [LinkedIn, accessed [8/20/24](#)]

Heap was elected to the Arizona State House, representing District 10, in 2022 and served as Vice-Chair of the Ways & Means Committee and the House Elections Committee. “In 2022, Justin was elected to the Arizona State House, representing District 10. In his time in the legislature, he has distinguished himself as a principled leader and a fierce advocate for limited government and conservative principles. He currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Ways & Means Committee and the House Elections Committee, where he has worked to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability in all aspects of the election process.” [justinheap.com, accessed [8/20/24](#)]

Heap worked for disbarred former Maricopa County Attorney Andrew Thomas. “State Rep. Justin Heap, a Republican candidate for Maricopa County recorder, once worked under disbarred former Maricopa County Attorney Andrew Thomas. According to an oath of office obtained from the Maricopa County Recorder’s Office, Heap was sworn in as a special deputy county attorney by Thomas in July 2009. Just months later, Thomas filed unfounded charges against other county officials that later led to his disbarment. Heap stayed with the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office until 2010, and records related to his employment were destroyed after he left, according to a records custodian with the office. Thomas resigned from his position in April 2010 to run for attorney general.” [Arizona Capitol Times, 7/12/24]

- **Thomas was disbarred in 2012 for indicting county officials for political reasons and other ethical violations.** “After an investigation and disciplinary hearing process, Thomas was disbarred in 2012 for indicting county officials for political reasons, knowingly filing charges

after the statute of limitations ended and other ethical violations.” [Arizona Capitol Times, 7/12/24]

- **Heap worked for the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office from July 2009 until 2010.** “State Rep. Justin Heap, a Republican candidate for Maricopa County recorder, once worked under disbarred former Maricopa County Attorney Andrew Thomas. According to an oath of office obtained from the Maricopa County Recorder’s Office, Heap was sworn in as a special deputy county attorney by Thomas in July 2009. Just months later, Thomas filed unfounded charges against other county officials that later led to his disbarment. Heap stayed with the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office until 2010, and records related to his employment were destroyed after he left, according to a records custodian with the office. Thomas resigned from his position in April 2010 to run for attorney general.” [Arizona Capitol Times, 7/12/24]
 - **Heap was not eligible to practice law in Arizona until December 2009 but he “made a request to volunteer his services as a prosecuting attorney.”** “Heap was not eligible to practice law in Arizona until December 2009, according to the Arizona State Bar’s website. But according to the oath of office, Heap ‘made a request to volunteer his services as a prosecuting attorney.’” [Arizona Capitol Times, 7/12/24]

Heap’s legal career is largely unknown but according to the State Bar’s website, he currently works for his own law firm. “The rest of Heap’s legal career is largely unknown. According to the State Bar’s website, he graduated from Arizona State University’s law school and currently works for his own law firm.” [Arizona Capitol Times, 7/12/24]

2024: Heap’s father, Ralph Heap, ran for Legislative District 10. “The two MAGA incumbents - Reps. Justin Heap and Barbara Parker - aren't running again in this MAGA-friendly east Mesa district. And, as you'd expect, two populist replacements are running for two House seats in the contested GOP primary. Ralph Heap is the outgoing incumbent's dad and aligned with him politically, and Justin Olson is a former lawmaker and corporation commissioner who is now an executive with Turning Point USA, a MAGA youth organization.” [Arizona Republic, 7/14/24]

PHILOSOPHY

Elections

2024: Heap declined to directly answer whether he thought Trump won in 2020 in Arizona and whether he thought Kari Lake won in 2022: “I’m not interested in discussing what’s happened.” TRANSCRIPT: “Ted: did donald trump win the presidential election in 2020 in arizona? >> i know this seems to be the only question that people want to ask. Ted: the last question i asked after a number of other questions. Please answer. >> i've been asked this question over and over again. I'm not interested in discussing what's happened.” [Arizona Horizon, OBP, [6/26/24](#)]

- **“I don’t think our election laws were followed...I think that many people were disenfranchised and may have affected the outcome...If you are going to run the worst run elections in America, it doesn’t matter what the ultimate result is.”** “I’m an attorney, i don't make statements that i don't know if i can prove, but what i can say, i don't think our election laws were followed. I think that many people were disenfranchised and may have affected the outcome. What we're focused on is fixing the system so whoever wins, republican or democrat, the people can feel confident that they know, if you are going to run the worst run elections in

america, it doesn't matter what the ultimate result is. A huge percentage of voters are not going to trust. Ted: that's a yes or no question.” [Arizona Horizon, OBP, [6/26/24](#)]

- **“We are not running our system in a way that inspires confidence.”** “I want to ask you about kari lake in 2022. Did she win the governor's race in arizona? >> again, the problem we had with the system this time is exactly the same problem in 2020. We are not running our system in a way that inspires confidence. Ted: sounds like you think she might have won. >> protecting an institution that the voters don't trust, and we need to fix it. The biggest problem we have facing our election system is not the potential for fraud. It is the fact that our voters do not have any confidence and really, they don't have reason they should feel confidence in our elections because of the way we run it and we will restore that.” [Arizona Horizon, OBP, [6/26/24](#)]
- **“What we are focusing on is fixing a broken system so that we can reestablish trust...”** “Ted: my last question to you, republican voters in maricopa county, lots of them, do think donald trump won in 2020. They think kari lake won in 2022. I can't get a yes or a no out of you. >> because i think that what we are focusing on is fixing a broken system so that we can reestablish trust. This is some sort of strange ‘gotcha’ question that people keep trying to ask. Ted: it's not a gotcha. >> the important question is: did we run elections in a way that would inspire confidence in the people? We do not have that right now. Ted: the two other candidates in this race gave an answer, one says donald trump and kari lake did win and were rigged out of an election. The other says they did not win, the election was won fair and square. They answered it. Why can't you? >> the answer is what i think is really not relevant to the question we are looking at. The problem that we have is our voters don't trust the system, and if our voters can't trust the system, we as elected officials need to address that, and the only way we address that is by showing them in a transparent and open way we are going to follow the law, that all of our rules and securities are kept in place, and if people can feel confident in the system, they will be fine. I'm not interested in putting my thumb on the scale to help either side win. I want to clean up and fix our election system, and we will do that. Ted: we got to stop you right there.” [Arizona Horizon, OBP, [6/26/24](#)]

Heap called for capping voting precincts at 1,000 to 1,500 voters, and argued that many of the problems that voters experienced in Maricopa County experienced when malfunctioning printers caused long lines and tabulation issues would be fixed by reverting back to using precincts. “Rep. Justin Heap, R-Mesa, suggested capping each precinct at 1,000 to 1,500 voters. In the last election, there were 223 voting centers in Maricopa County, but if all of its almost 2.5 million registered voters were divided among precincts capped at 1,500 registered voters, the county would need more than 1,600 precincts. And the county would have to staff those precincts, when it already struggles to find poll workers for its voting centers. The committee on Wednesday approved House Bill 2304[8], which would ban voting centers and force counties to use the precinct model instead. Heap argued that many of the problems that voters experienced in Maricopa County in the general election, when malfunctioning printers caused long lines and tabulation issues[9], would be fixed by reverting back to using precincts.” [Arizona Mirror, 2/2/23]

Heap argued that banning electronic voting would regain the public's trust in elections, saying, “Whether or not there was voter fraud or not in the election is really irrelevant to this committee because the fact is that a large percentage of our voting base does not have confidence in our elections. And if that is the case, then it becomes the duty of the Legislature to act to address this to give people confidence by passing laws.” “The bill passed the committee down party lines 6-4 with Democrats arguing that the bill is based on conspiracy theories. Republicans argued that this is a way to

regain voter trust in elections. Rep. Justin Heap (R- District 10) claimed that there is no way of knowing if there was election fraud when election equipment is sourced out by a third party from another country. ‘Whether or not there was voter fraud or not in the election is really irrelevant to this committee because the fact is that a large percentage of our voting base does not have confidence in our elections,’ Heap said. ‘And if that is the case, then it becomes the duty of the Legislature to act to address this to give people confidence by passing laws.’” [Laughlin Nevada Times, 3/19/23]

Heap said Kari Lake’s case would be dismissed “not because the evidence is insufficient or her legal team is incapable,” but “because the Court has intentionally set the bar SO HIGH that it would be impossible for anyone to prevail As a trial attorney this appears, in my opinion, to be Court-imposed elevated standards of proof intended to guarantee dismissal, while preserving the appearance of impartiality.” “Even so, some Lake supporters believe that the judge intentionally set a hurdle too high for Lake to overcome. Republican Rep. Justin Heap, a Mesa attorney, tweeted Friday[5] that he believes the case will be dismissed. 'This is not because the evidence is insufficient or her legal team is incapable,' Heap wrote in the tweet. 'It is because the Court has intentionally set the bar SO HIGH that it would be impossible for anyone to prevail As a trial attorney this appears, in my opinion, to be Court-imposed elevated standards of proof intended to guarantee dismissal, while preserving the appearance of impartiality.'” [Arizona Mirror, 5/23/23]

- **Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Peter Thompson said to overturn the results of the election, Lake's lawyers must prove that Maricopa County conducted no higher level signature verification for ballots cast in the 2022 general election last November — and that the number of illegal ballots cast because of that changed the results of the election.** “Ahead of the three-day trial, Thompson issued a ruling[2] that said to overturn the results of the election, Lake's lawyers must prove that Maricopa County conducted no higher level signature verification for ballots cast in the 2022 general election last November — and that the number of illegal ballots cast because of that changed the results of the election.” [Arizona Mirror, 5/23/23]

Heap said “our courts are not very good at handling election challenges,” arguing that courts generally operate on a much slower timeline than is needed to resolve election contests, said House Bill 2472 was ultimately about extending the time that those challenging election results had to review evidence. “In addition, the bill would give all parties in the suit the right to full discovery of evidence, something that is currently limited in election challenge cases, because of time constraints. 'Our courts are not very good at handling election challenges,' said Rep. Justin Heap, a Mesa Republican. Courts generally operate on a much slower timeline than is needed to resolve election contests, he said, adding that this bill is ultimately about extending the time that those challenging the results of an election have to review evidence. Hamadeh, who lost the race for Attorney General to Democrat Kris Mayes by just 280 votes, is still fighting the results of that race in court. Hamadeh lost his initial challenge[3] after submitting only 14 ballots - out of 2,600 examined - to the court that he claimed were erroneously counted or left uncounted. The judge ultimately ruled that those ballots were only examples of voter error, but Hamadeh argued that the limits on time and discovery of evidence stopped his team from finding more ballots that were incorrectly counted. Some backers of McGarr's bill say that Hamadeh's and Lake's losses prove nothing. 'If it's limited to this short timeline, the case can't be made - not because it's invalid, but because they don't have time,' Heap said.” [Arizona Mirror, 2/1/24]

Heap reportedly opposed House Concurrent Resolution 2055, which proposed appointing the eleven presidential electors to the Republican primary winner, saying “are you asking us just to give Donald Trump the electors without having a vote?” “Fortunately, Jones’ scheme was too much

even for Republican Reps. Alexander Kolodin of Scottsdale and Justin Heap of Mesa, who like her are members of the hard-right Arizona Freedom Caucus. ‘Wouldn’t we be guilty of exactly what we accuse the other side of doing, stealing the election?’ Kolodin asked. ‘Are you asking us just to give Donald Trump the electors without having a vote?’ Heap asked. Yes, replied Josh Barnett, a state Senate candidate who is pushing the bill. ‘It’s the only way to protect the vote for ’24.’ Fake elector uses ‘investigation’: For political payback I’m going to go out on a limb here and predict Barnett’s chances are being elected will hover somewhere between slim and none once voters in north Phoenix find out he wanted to strip them of their right to vote for president. Jones’ bill was ultimately tabled during Wednesday’s meeting of the House Municipal Affairs and Elections Committee. Given opposition from Kolodin and Heap, I’m guessing we’ve seen the end of this insane idea.” [Arizona Republic, 2/15/24]

- **In reference to House Concurrent Resolution 2055, Heap asked Josh Barnett, “So, you're arguing that we should go ahead and just appoint electors now and ignore the results of the election. Is that what I'm understanding?”** “Josh Barnett, a 2022 Republican candidate for Congress who campaigned on election conspiracy theories, spoke in favor of the resolution. He said it was about ‘protecting’ voters like him. ‘So, you're arguing that we should go ahead and just appoint electors now and ignore the results of the election. Is that what I'm understanding?’ Rep. Justin Heap, R-Mesa, asked Barnett. ‘Ignore the results of another illegally run election,’ Barnett answered. After some more back-and-forth, Heap asked: ‘Then why do we even have an election at all?’” [Arizona Republic, 2/15/24]
- **Heap to Barnett: “Then why do we even have an election at all?”** “Josh Barnett, a 2022 Republican candidate for Congress who campaigned on election conspiracy theories, spoke in favor of the resolution. He said it was about ‘protecting’ voters like him. ‘So, you're arguing that we should go ahead and just appoint electors now and ignore the results of the election. Is that what I'm understanding?’ Rep. Justin Heap, R-Mesa, asked Barnett. ‘Ignore the results of another illegally run election,’ Barnett answered. After some more back-and-forth, Heap asked: ‘Then why do we even have an election at all?’” [Arizona Republic, 2/15/24]
- **Heap warned that Democrats would take control of the Legislature if HCR 2055 was passed.** “Heap, like Kolodin said there are political considerations. He said if lawmakers were to approve Jones' measure and it were upheld the state's electoral votes would go to Trump. But Heap noted that's not the only office on the 2024 ballot. He said Democrats could ‘get their fondest wish’ and take control of the Legislature, ‘which I can guarantee you will happen if we do this.’ And he asked Barnett if he's OK, what with the precedent that Jones' measure would set, with the possibility that a Democrat-controlled Legislature would pick the electors for the 2028 presidential race.” [Mohave Valley Daily News, 2/15/24]
- **Heap asked Barnett if he's OK, what with the precedent that Jones' measure would set, with the possibility that a Democrat-controlled Legislature would pick the electors for the 2028 presidential race.** “Heap, like Kolodin said there are political considerations. He said if lawmakers were to approve Jones' measure and it were upheld the state's electoral votes would go to Trump. But Heap noted that's not the only office on the 2024 ballot. He said Democrats could ‘get their fondest wish’ and take control of the Legislature, ‘which I can guarantee you will happen if we do this.’ And he asked Barnett if he's OK, what with the precedent that Jones' measure would set, with the possibility that a Democrat-controlled Legislature would pick the electors for the 2028 presidential race.” [Mohave Valley Daily News, 2/15/24]

Heap replied “Lol” when a fellow MAGA supporter posted a GIF mocking Republican Supervisor Bill Gates, after Gates announced he had been diagnosed with PTSD following years of threats to his family from election denialists. “It was Heap who replied ‘LOL’ when a fellow MAGA supporter posted a GIF mocking Republican Supervisor Bill Gates. This, after Gates’ announcement that he’d been diagnosed with PTSD following three years of threats to his family from the election denial crowd.” [Arizona Republic, 2/26/24; X, [5/6/23](#)]

According to Arizona Republic’s Laurie Roberts, Heap co-sponsored bills to break up Maricopa County in the aftermath of the 2022 election and supported legislation that would make it harder to run elections and easier to challenge the results. “He’s co-sponsored Hoffman’s bills to break up Maricopa County in the aftermath of the 2022 election, and he’s supported bills that would make it harder to run elections and easier to challenge the results.” [Arizona Republic, 2/26/24]

Heap: “Ensuring that voters have confidence in our elections and that Arizona’s election days are run honestly, transparently and securely is the civil rights issue of our time.” “A state representative aligned with the conservative Freedom Caucus of the state House of Representatives announced Wednesday he is running for Maricopa County Recorder. With the support of many Freedom Caucus members behind him at the Capitol, Rep. Justin Heap, R-Mesa, spoke about his candidacy and the caucus’ goal of unseating current Republican Recorder Stephen Richer. ‘Ensuring that voters have confidence in our elections and that Arizona’s election days are run honestly, transparently and securely is the civil rights issue of our time,’ Heap said.” [Arizona Capitol Times, 2/28/24]

Heap said voters were “not crazy for looking at our system the entire country is looking at Maricopa County and saying why can’t you guys run an election like every other state.” “It is clear that the incompetence of our current county recorder contributes to a belief among all of our voters that things aren’t on the up and up. They are not crazy for looking at our system the entire country is looking at Maricopa County and saying why can’t you guys run an election like every other state,’ Heap said.” [Arizona Capitol Times, 2/28/24]

February 2024: Heap didn’t directly answer questions about whether he believes the 2022 election was stolen from Republican gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake and said he would only make statements he feels that he can prove. “Heap didn’t directly answer questions about whether he believes the 2022 election was stolen from Republican gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake and said he would only make statements he feels that he can prove. He exited his press conference announcing his candidacy after multiple reporters asked him the question.” [Arizona Capitol Times, 2/28/24]

Heap vowed “If I run and Democrats win at some future time, then at least all of the voters will know that they won fairly, that both sides were given an equal opportunity to vote.” “But he also promised to treat the right to vote as sacred, from individuals of any political party. ‘If I run and Democrats win at some future time, then at least all of the voters will know that they won fairly, that both sides were given an equal opportunity to vote,’ Heap said. ‘That is the path forward for our party and state.’” [Arizona Capitol Times, 2/28/24]

Heap: “Maricopa County now has a long track record of election-related issues. Maricopa County is the laughing stock of our nation and the world.” “Maricopa County now has a long track record of election-related issues. Maricopa County is the laughing stock of our nation and the world,’ Heap said on Wednesday at his campaign announcement press conference.” [Center Square, 2/28/24]

Heap authored and supported bills to remove Arizona from a multistate voter registration list maintenance effort, allow any elected official in the state to bring an expert of their choice to inspect voting equipment in any jurisdiction, and encode ballot chain of custody procedures in law. “During this year's legislative session, he has authored and supported bills to remove Arizona from a multistate voter registration list maintenance effort, allow any elected official in the state to bring an expert of their choice to inspect voting equipment in any jurisdiction, and encode ballot chain of custody procedures in law.” [Arizona Republic, 2/29/24]

Heap co-sponsored legislation that aimed to divide Maricopa County into several smaller jurisdictions, an effort spearheaded by some conservatives to dilute county officials' influence. “He also served as the co-sponsor of legislation that aimed to divide Maricopa County into several smaller jurisdictions, an effort spearheaded by some conservatives to dilute county officials' influence.” [Arizona Republic, 2/29/24]

Heap expressed opposition to a resolution that would request the state's electoral votes in 2024 be handed to the GOP nominee for president. “Heap expressed opposition to a resolution that would ask Gov. Katie Hobbs to automatically hand the state's electoral votes in 2024 to the GOP nominee for president. The proposal came from Rep. Rachel Jones, a Republican from Tucson and a fellow Freedom Caucus member. Her resolution aimed to offset the removal of Donald Trump from primary ballots in several other states. It served mainly as a declaration with no effect, but still got strong pushback from legislative Democrats and many Republicans.” [Arizona Republic, 2/29/24]

According to Arizona Republic's Laurie Roberts, two fake electors stood behind Heap during his press conference announcing his candidacy for recorder. “Standing behind Heap during his press conference were at least two fake electors and most of the Arizona Freedom Caucus that dominates the Legislature. But the candidate who pledged transparency and honesty curiously refused to answer reporters' questions about whether he believes the 2020 and 2022 elections were stolen.” [Arizona Republic, 2/29/24]

February 2024: Heap sidestepped questions about whether he believed recent elections were run fairly but said "the incompetence of our country recorder contributes to the belief among all of our voters that things aren't on the up and up." “During a press conference announcing his candidacy, Heap sidestepped questions about whether he believes recent elections were run fairly. But he took a slap at Richer, saying that ‘the incompetence of our country recorder contributes to the belief among all of our voters that things aren't on the up and up.’” [Arizona Capitol Times, 3/5/24]

Heap led a ballot proposal to allow Arizona to run its own census starting in 2030 and to use only the citizen-count to redraw state legislative districts, claiming it was a way to ensure that legislative districts are drawn without using what he called a skewed system that counts everyone instead of just people who are potentially eligible to vote. “Arizona would run its own census in 2030 and each 10 years thereafter that would include a tally of U.S. citizens and use only that citizen-count to redraw state legislative districts under a Republican-backed proposal that could be placed on the November ballot. And the reason, the sponsor acknowledges, has everything to do with illegal immigration. The ballot referral is being touted by Rep. Justin Heap, a freshman Republican from Mesa, as a way to ensure that legislative districts are drawn without using what he called a skewed system that counts everyone instead of just people who are citizens and potentially eligible to vote. And with a surge of migrants crossing the border in recent years during the Biden Administration, Heap said ensuring that only citizens are used to divvy up legislative seats is even more important. Congressional seats would

continue to be apportioned by federal census data because of controlling federal law.” [Eastern Arizona Courier, 3/24/24]

- **Heap said ensuring that only citizens are used to divvy up legislative seats is even more important with a surge of migrants crossing the border in recent years.** “And with a surge of migrants crossing the border in recent years during the Biden Administration, Heap said ensuring that only citizens are used to divvy up legislative seats is even more important. Congressional seats would continue to be apportioned by federal census data because of controlling federal law.” [Eastern Arizona Courier, 3/24/24]
- **Heap said including immigrants in apportionment would “concentrate districts that have large numbers of non-citizens living in it are going to be over-represented in the legislature where districts that have fewer people but more citizens are going to get less.”** “That's going to throw off Arizona districts,” Heap said. ‘It's going to concentrate districts that have large numbers of non-citizens living in it are going to be over-represented in the legislature where districts that have fewer people but more citizens are going to get less. So that is a substantial problem.’” [Eastern Arizona Courier, 3/24/24]

Heap was endorsed by election denier Kari Lake, who claimed Heap wanted to “rebuild voter trust.” “But it is clear that Heap's got the backing of Arizona's most prominent election denier, who continues to claim that Richer rigged the 2022 election even after conceding in court to defaming him by spreading lies about his involvement in 'stealing' the election from her. 'We must return integrity to our elections in Arizona,' Lake wrote in her endorsement of Heap. 'To do that, we need to restore integrity to the office that counts 63% of our state's votes. Justin Heap isn't interested in TV appearances, Twitter feuds, and putting his foot on the scales of individual races. He wants to rebuild voter trust and do the job. I'm proud to endorse Justin Heap to be our next Maricopa County Recorder.’” [Arizona Mirror, 4/1/24]

Heap sidestepped questions about his confidence in the 2020 and 2022 election results, but parroted common talking points. When announcing his candidacy, Heap sidestepped questions about whether he believed recent elections were run fairly but said “the incompetence of our country recorder contributes to the belief among all of our voters that things aren't on the up and up.” According to the Boston Globe, Heap “tried to thread a particular needle - casting doubt on the elections process and raising allegations of impropriety without committing to saying that the 2020 or 2022 elections were fraudulent.” When asked in interviews and public forums if he believed the 2020 election was stolen, Heap has consistently said, “I don't make statements that I can't prove.” Per AP, Heap “has stopped short of saying the 2020 and 2022 elections were stolen, but has characterized the state’s practices for handling early ballots as insecure and has questioned the ballot chain of custody.” When asked by the Arizona Republic, “How confident are you in the certified results of the 2020 and 2022 elections?” Heap did not respond directly, instead saying “What’s abundantly clear to any honest observer is that voters are disenfranchised and have lost trust in our elections.” During a debate in late June, Heap denied sowing discord over elections for political gain and said voters do not trust the state’s voting system because it’s poorly run. According to the Arizona Mirror, “his statements on social media show that he is, at a minimum, sympathetic to election deniers - if not a believer in election conspiracies himself.” Heap appeared to indicate sympathy with those convicted of storming the U.S. Capitol on January 6th, posting on social media, “it seems we don't actually have an issue with activists storming a capitol building as long as they're on the left,” in reference to transgender activists protesting at the Oklahoma Capitol building.

- **Arizona Mirror: “Heap’s...record...and his statements...show that he is, at a minimum, sympathetic to election deniers—if not a believer in election conspiracies himself.”** “Heap's voting record in the House, his comments during the chamber's Municipal Oversight and Elections Committee meetings, his campaign events and endorsements, and his statements on social media show that he is, at a minimum, sympathetic to election deniers - if not a believer in election conspiracies himself.” [Arizona Mirror, 4/1/24]
- **Arizona Mirror: “Heap has voted in favor of bills that would ban electronic tabulation of ballots and force hand counts, that would eliminate the option to vote early or most Arizonans and that would bar the use of voting centers to be replaced by precincts capped at 1,000 registered voters each.”** “While he has walked a fine line without flat-out admitting he thinks Maricopa County elections are rigged, Heap has voted in favor of bills that would ban electronic tabulation of ballots and force hand counts, that would eliminate the option to vote early for most Arizonans and that would bar the use of voting centers to be replaced by precincts capped at 1,000 registered voters each.” [Arizona Mirror, 4/1/24]

Heap sponsored a ballot-chain-of-custody bill, saying “I’m concerned, after multiple election cycles, every time after the elections there’s stories that appear everywhere, pictures of concern from voters that ballots are being injected in, that vans are pulling up moving those ballots.” “During a Feb. 14 meeting of the House Municipal Oversight and Elections Committee, Heap shared the thought process behind the ballot-chain-of-custody bill he sponsored this year, House Bill 2851. 'I'm concerned, after multiple election cycles, every time after the elections there's stories that appear everywhere, pictures of concern from voters that ballots are being injected in, that vans are pulling up moving those ballots,' Heap said. 'And I think the best solution to that is just a simple chain of custody.'” [Arizona Mirror, 4/1/24]

Heap appeared to indicate sympathy with those convicted for storming the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, posting “It seems we don’t actually have an issue with activists storming a capitol building as long as they’re on the left” in reference to transgender activists protesting at the Oklahoma Capitol building. “Heap's social media posts seem to indicate that he sympathizes with those convicted of crimes for storming the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in an effort to keep then-President Donald Trump in office. 'It seems we don't actually have an issue with activists storming a capitol building as long as they're on the left,' Heap wrote in a post[20] on X on Feb. 7, 2023. 'Where is the FBI and a February 6th Commission to hunt down these 'dangerous insurgents' trying to 'overthrow our democracy?'' The post was referring to a group of transgender activists protesting at the Oklahoma Capitol building in an effort to stop Republican lawmakers from passing anti-trans bills. But those activists in Oklahoma weren't attempting to overthrow an election, no law enforcement officers were hurt, and no one in the crowd died that day, unlike what happened at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.” [Arizona Mirror, 4/1/24]

Heap supported legislation to remove Arizona from a multistate voter registration list maintenance effort. “Justin Heap: He is a state lawmaker representing a legislative district that spans parts of east Mesa and Apache Junction. Heap is a member of the ultra-conservative Freedom Caucus. During his time in the Arizona Legislature, he has supported bills to remove the state from a multistate voter registration list maintenance effort and divide Maricopa County into several smaller jurisdictions. Heap is running as a Republican.” [Arizona Republic, 4/8/24]

Heap pledged to clean voter rolls. “Heap and Hiatt both voice issues with county elections. Heap, who has previously supported legislation to remove Arizona from a multistate voter registration list

maintenance effort, pledges to clean voter rolls. He also promises faster election results, although his campaign website doesn't specify how he would accomplish that within the framework of existing state law.” [Arizona Republic, 6/23/24]

Heap promised faster election results, but did not specify how he would accomplish that. Heap and Hiatt both voice issues with county elections. Heap, who has previously supported legislation to remove Arizona from a multistate voter registration list maintenance effort, pledges to clean voter rolls. He also promises faster election results, although his campaign website doesn't specify how he would accomplish that within the framework of existing state law.” [Arizona Republic, 6/23/24]

Heap stopped short of saying recent elections were fraudulent, but echoed doubts commonly used by election deniers to fuel that conspiracy, saying there were “inconsistencies and illegalities that happened.” “Heap stopped short of saying recent elections were fraudulent, but echoed doubts commonly used by election deniers to fuel that conspiracy. He said there were ‘inconsistencies and illegalities that happened.’ ‘The bigger issue than the potential for fraud or maladministration is that the voters have lost confidence in the system,’ Heap said.” [Arizona Republic, 6/25/24]

- **Heap: “The bigger issue than the potential for fraud or maladministration is that the voters have lost confidence in the system.”** “Heap stopped short of saying recent elections were fraudulent, but echoed doubts commonly used by election deniers to fuel that conspiracy. He said there were ‘inconsistencies and illegalities that happened.’ ‘The bigger issue than the potential for fraud or maladministration is that the voters have lost confidence in the system,’ Heap said.” [Arizona Republic, 6/25/24]

Boston Globe: Heap “tried to thread a particular needle - casting doubt on the elections process and raising allegations of impropriety without committing to saying that the 2020 or 2022 elections were fraudulent” “Heap, who is endorsed by a number of top Arizona Trump allies, has tried to thread a particular needle - casting doubt on the elections process and raising allegations of impropriety without committing to saying that the 2020 or 2022 elections were fraudulent. When asked in interviews and public forums if he believed the 2020 election was stolen, Heap has consistently said, ‘I don't make statements that I can't prove.’” [Boston Globe, 7/5/24]

Heap: “My promise to voters is to do everything within the confines of our election laws to clean our voter rolls in real time and to restore transparency, lawfulness and honesty back to our elections.” “Justin Heap: Effective voter roll management is central to ensuring voters can have trust in the process of Maricopa County’s elections. Under the current recorder, voter roll maintenance has been laughable at best, resulting in historically low voter confidence and voter disenfranchisement. My promise to voters is to do everything within the confines of our election laws to clean our voter rolls in real time and to restore transparency, lawfulness and honesty back to our elections. In the Arizona Legislature, I am fighting for this, and I will make it happen as recorder.” [Arizona Republic, 7/9/24]

Heap said he condemned violence and threats against election officials and said “credible” threats should be “prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.” “Heap: I condemn any and all violence or threats against all election officials. That is simply not who we are as Americans. I categorically reject it. I also condemn the Democrats weaponization of our government and justice system to target and destroy their political opponents. Both of these are a perverse corruption of our American institutions. If anyone

makes a credible threat against a public official, I believe they should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.” [Arizona Republic, 7/9/24]

When asked “How confident are you in the certified results of the 2020 and 2022 elections?” Heap did not respond directly, instead saying “What’s abundantly clear to any honest observer is that voters are disenfranchised and have lost trust in our elections.” “Heap: What’s abundantly clear to any honest observer is that voters are disenfranchised and have lost trust in our elections. Restoring voter confidence and the integrity of our elections has become the civil rights issue of our time. We need more transparency, lawfulness and honesty in the election process so every voter is confident in the outcomes of Maricopa County elections.” [Arizona Republic, 7/9/24]

Heap denied sowing discord over elections for political gain and said voters do not trust the state’s voting system because it’s poorly run: “It’s not because they believe misinformation on social media. It’s because they see the same problems happening election cycle after election cycle after election cycle, and they cannot get elected officials to even acknowledge that this is a massive problem and address their concerns.” “He has stopped short of saying the 2020 and 2022 elections were stolen, but has characterized the state’s practices for handling early ballots as insecure and has questioned the ballot chain of custody. Earlier this year, Heap proposed an unsuccessful bill that would have removed Arizona from a multistate effort to maintain voter lists. During a debate in late June, Heap denied sowing discord over elections for political gain and said voters do not trust the state’s voting system because it’s poorly run. ‘It’s not because they believe misinformation on social media,’ Heap said during the debate. ‘It’s because they see the same problems happening election cycle after election cycle after election cycle, and they cannot get elected officials to even acknowledge that this is a massive problem and address their concerns.’” [AP, 7/31/24]

PBS Reporter Stephanie Sy: “Heap did support some of the election reforms in the state legislature that were proposed by election denialists.” “Speaking of the law, Heap did support some of the election reforms in the state legislature that were proposed by election denialists.” [PBS, [8/7/24](#)]

Non-Election Duties

Heap: “We need to be constantly vigilant in protecting Maricopa County property owners against deed and title fraud by enhancing the notification systems for property owners whenever a change in status occurs.” “Heap: I will make sure the system is accessible and transparent for everyone. We need to be constantly vigilant in protecting Maricopa County property owners against deed and title fraud by enhancing the notification systems for property owners whenever a change in status occurs.” [Arizona Republic, 7/9/24]

Education

Heap said “In Arizona and across the country, there has been a unanimous voice from parents that says parents don’t want to see political, sexual, gender and racial policies in putted into their school.” “Rep. Justin Heap, R-Mesa, told lawmakers on the House Education Committee that, while he’s seen transparency bills addressing classroom curriculum, he felt that teacher trainings, which he said set the tone for classrooms, are too lacking in oversight. ‘In Arizona and across the country, there has been a unanimous voice from parents that says parents don’t want to see political, sexual, gender and racial policies in putted into their school,’ he claimed. To bolster his argument that teacher trainings are forwarding those ideologies, he presented a list of seminars offered for teachers in Mesa. Topics

included terms like Latinx, equality vs. equity, antiracism, neurotypical and marginalized.” [Casa Grande Dispatch, 2/15/23]

- **Heap argued that teacher trainings lacked oversight and presented a list of seminars offered for teachers in Mesa that included terms like Latinx, equality vs. equity, antiracism, neurotypical and marginalized.** “Rep. Justin Heap, R-Mesa, told lawmakers on the House Education Committee that, while he's seen transparency bills addressing classroom curriculum, he felt that teacher trainings, which he said set the tone for classrooms, are too lacking in oversight. ‘In Arizona and across the country, there has been a unanimous voice from parents that says parents don't want to see political, sexual, gender and racial policies inducted into their school,’ he claimed. To bolster his argument that teacher trainings are forwarding those ideologies, he presented a list of seminars offered for teachers in Mesa. Topics included terms like Latinx, equality vs. equity, antiracism, neurotypical and marginalized.” [Casa Grande Dispatch, 2/15/23]
- **Heap sponsored a bill that would require teacher training materials to be posted online.** “One of the bills that aims for that goal would require school districts to post all teacher training materials online. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Justin Heap, R-Mesa, said it's a way to keep tabs on the many ideas circulating in education circles. He cited materials he's seen from the Mesa Public Schools that deal with topics such as intersectionality, neurodiverse individuals and anti-racism and argued parents and the public have a right to know what teachers are learning in trainings. Heap emphasized the bill would not ban such trainings but simply make them transparent. HB 2786 passed the House on a party-line vote with Republican support. It awaits a hearing of the full Senate.” [Arizona Republic, 4/3/23]
 - **Heap called his measure a ‘transparency bill’ that would let parents hear about ‘left-wing or woke ideas being inculcated’ in schools.** “The House passed several bills on Republican party lines that have already passed the Senate and will face likely vetoes from Hobbs, including one by Rep. Gail Griffin, R-Hereford, that would allow counties to conduct a hand-count of all ballots in an election and one by Rep. Justin Heap, R-Mesa, that would have forced public schools to reveal their teaching-training materials to parents. Heap called his measure a ‘transparency bill’ that would let parents hear about ‘left-wing or woke ideas being inculcated’ in schools.” [Arizona Republic, 6/14/23]
- **Heap said it would be fine to provide instruction on issues of equality but argued that equity gets into things like whether a group that has been historically marginalized should get special treatment and said “who decides what’s fair and what’s not?”** “Separately on Friday, Hobbs vetoed a proposal by Rep. Justin Heap, R-Mesa, that would have given parents access to all the materials school districts used to train teachers. Heap showed colleagues what he said was a list of subjects in training sessions that teachers from Mesa Unified School District were being required to attend. They included anti-racism, non-binary, unconscious biases, restorative justice and equity. All those are issues with which parents may disagree, Heap said. Rep. Judy Schwiebert, D-Phoenix, asked him what is wrong with teachers learning about some of these issues like equity. Heap said it would be fine to provide instruction on issues of equality. But equity, he said, is different, dealing with issues of being fair rather than of being equal. ‘Who decides what's fair and what's not?’ Heap asked. He said equity gets into things like whether a group that has been historically marginalized should get special treatment. Heap also said what is in his bill is no different than existing laws that already give parents access to the curriculum

being used in classrooms.” [Arizona Daily Star, 6/16/23]

Ethics

While serving as a state representative, Heap responded to a lobbyist’s request for a meeting by asking whether the firm had financially supported his campaign. “State Rep. Justin Heap (R), who ran on a slate that included several election deniers, recently received an email from a lobbyist seeking to meet with him. In responding, he asked whether the firm she works for had financially supported his campaign. ‘I need to prioritize which meetings I can take,’ he wrote in the email obtained by The Post through a public records request. ‘May I ask you, Did Consortium [sic] Consulting donate to my campaign fund? And if not, why did you (or your clients) decide not to do so?’ Heap did not respond to The Post’s request for comment. A Consilium Consulting owner declined to comment.” [Washington Post, [1/27/23](#)]

Amid GOP efforts to have election conspiracist Liz Harris appointed to fill the seat from which she was expelled for ethics violations, Heap said state law prohibited an expelled member from being reappointed to the same seat then backtracked somewhat saying it was a “constitutional 'gray area.'” “Fellow Republican lawmaker Justin Heap initially had opined in a Twitter post that state law prohibits an expelled member from being reappointed to the same seat. But Heap, who is an attorney, backtracked somewhat. ‘I still believe this statement is true,’ he wrote. ‘However, Arizona law does not expressly prohibit LD 13 PCs from nominating Liz Harris as a candidate to her prior seat,’ Heap said. “After review with other attorneys the best we can say is this is a constitutional 'gray area.’” Supervisors had not yet received legal advice on their options, said Fields Moseley, spokesman for the supervisors. Even if it's legal, the odds of the supervisors selecting Harris are slim at best. Harris, after losing her legislative race in 2020, was a promoter of theories that the results were flawed. The Chandler real estate agent even conducted what she claimed was a door-to-door canvass of Maricopa County voters and claimed based on her sample that there were more than 173,000 ‘lost’ votes and more than 96,000 ‘ghost’ votes. And even after winning her 2022 race she continued to claim flaws.” [Arizona Daily Star, 4/19/23]

- **Heap was one of 13 House Republicans who voted to support Rep. Liz Harris, described as “one of the state’s most ardent election deniers,” who was ousted for her part in a scheme to accuse Gov. Katie Hobbs and others of secretly working for a Mexican drug cartel.** “He’s one of 13 House Republicans who voted to support one of the state’s most ardent election deniers, the now-expelled Rep. Liz Harris, ousted last April for her part in a crazy scheme to publicly accuse Gov. Katie Hobbs and others of secretly working for a Mexican drug cartel.” [Arizona Republic, 2/26/24]

While questioning Amy Bos, a lobbyist for NetChoice, Heap asked “Do you acknowledge that the material that's come out from the Twitter Files and various things have indicated that the government is dictating to the social media platforms what they should ban, what they should remove? Don't you find that dangerous?” “Rep. Justin Heap, R-Mesa, had his own example, citing the ‘Twitter Files.’ These were documents released by Elon Musk after he bought the company. Some reporters who reviewed the files said they showed circumstances under which Twitter had removed posts or lowered their visibility, often at the request of government officials and Democrats. They also shed some light on the decision by Twitter to suspend the account of Donald Trump in the days after the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the Capitol amid concerns that there was ‘the risk of further incitement of violence.’ ‘Do you acknowledge that the material that's come out from the Twitter Files and various things have

indicated that the government is dictating to the social media platforms what they should ban, what they should remove?' Heap asked Bos. 'Don't you find that dangerous?'" [Sierra Vista Herald, 4/21/23]

When asked about deep fakes, Heap acknowledged SCOTUS's protection of false speech, but questioned whether the current justices would reach the same conclusion, saying "We have a completely new technology. This is video of someone with their voice speaking, saying something they didn't say. To me, it seems this brings in an entirely different dynamic." "Rep. Justin Heap, R-Mesa, acknowledged there is a 2002 U.S. Supreme Court case that protects false speech. But he questioned whether the current justices would reach the same conclusion. 'We have a completely new technology,' Heap said. 'This is video of someone with their voice speaking, saying something they didn't say. To me, it seems this brings in an entirely different dynamic.'" [Arizona Daily Star, 5/31/24]

Immigration

Heap said his legislation, HB 2843, was designed to close a loophole that he claims has led to "increasingly larger numbers of migrants or human traffickers moving across farm and ranch 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[1], which permits Arizonans to use deadly force against people who are trespassing or breaking into their home. Rep. Justin Heap, a Mesa Republican, told the House Judiciary Committee on Feb. 14 that his House Bill 2843[2] is designed to close a loophole that he claims has led to 'increasingly larger numbers of migrants or human traffickers moving across farm and ranch land.' The bill comes as an Arizona rancher awaits trial[3] after he was arrested and charged with second-degree murder and aggravated assault for killing 48-year-old Gabriel Cuen-Butimea after he shot at a group of unarmed migrants walking through his 170-acre ranch outside of Nogales. Under its provisions, 73-year-old George Alan Kelly would have been justified for allegedly killing any of the migrants." [Arizona Mirror, 2/23/24]

- **Heap's bill would have expanded the Castle Doctrine law by changing it to allow deadly force to be used if the intruder is either in the shooter's residence or on his land.** "The bill expands the Castle Doctrine law by changing the law to allow deadly force to be used if the intruder is either in the shooter's residence or on his land. The law currently requires the intruder to be both on the land and in the residence or other structure designed for habitation. 'Language like 'and' 'or' 'either 'that one word can completely change the meaning of how this law is then applied,' Heap said. 'If a farmer owns 10,000 acres of farmland, his home may be a half a mile away from where he is, and if he sees someone on his land, can he approach them and (remove) them from his property? This is an amendment to fix that.' Heap did not respond to requests for comment on his bill." [Arizona Mirror, 2/23/24]
- **Heap on HB 2843: "If a farmer owns 10,000 acres of farmland, his home may be a half a mile away from where he is, and if he sees someone on his land, can he approach them and (remove) them from his property? This is an amendment to fix that"** "The bill expands the Castle Doctrine law by changing the law to allow deadly force to be used if the intruder is either in the shooter's residence or on his land. The law currently requires the intruder to be both on the land and in the residence or other structure designed for habitation. 'Language like 'and' 'or' 'either 'that one word can completely change the meaning of how this law is then applied,' Heap said. 'If a farmer owns 10,000 acres of farmland, his home may be a half a mile away from where he is, and if he sees someone on his land, can he approach them and (remove) them from his

property? This is an amendment to fix that.' Heap did not respond to requests for comment on his bill." [Arizona Mirror, 2/23/24]

- **Heap introduced his bill as a jury trial neared for a rancher charged with murder of a Mexican citizen who allegedly crossed his ranch.** "The introduction of the bill comes as a jury trial nears for George Alan Kelly, a 75-year-old rancher charged with second-degree murder of a Mexican citizen who allegedly crossed Kelly's ranch in Kino Springs in 2023." [Nogales International, 2/29/24]
- **Heap said he was pushing for the change in the Castle Doctrine because of concerns with ambiguities in the current law raised by prosecutors in Yuma and Yavapai counties, but the two county attorneys said they had not asked for the law to be changed.** "Heap said during House meetings that he was pushing for the change because of concerns with ambiguities in the current law raised by prosecutors in Yuma and Yavapai counties. But the two county attorneys, Jon Smith in Yuma and Dennis McGrane, told Capitol Media Services they had not asked for the law to be changed." [Yuma Sun, 3/14/24]
- **March 2024: Heap said HB 2843 had nothing to do with migrants and only made a minor change to the existing law.** "The fight between Republicans backing what the sponsor of House Bill 2843 originally framed as a needed protection for farmers and ranchers. That drew a sharp response from Democrats who called it a virtual license to gun down migrants. But in debate at the Judiciary Committee that lasted an hour, Rep. Justin Heap, R-Mesa, the sponsor of the measure, said it had nothing to do with migrants and only makes a minor change to the existing law." [Yuma Sun, 3/14/24]

Political Allies

Heap voted for Ted Cruz in the 2016 presidential primary election. "For example, Heap says he voted for Ted Cruz in the 2016 presidential preference election. 'It is true that in the 2016 Presidential Preference Election I did not vote for Donald J. Trump,' he wrote in a June 4 social media post, answering critics who questioned his loyalty to Trump." [Arizona Republic, [6/26/24](#)]

In now-deleted social media posts, Heap said he was not part of the MAGA movement and said "I didn't vote for Trump the first time and I hoped he would not run again because I believe he is too polarizing." "In 2023, Heap said in several now-deleted social media posts that he's not a part of the MAGA movement and, in fact, wasn't a Trump supporter. 'I'm not a MAGA supporter,' he flatly wrote in May 2023. 'Actually cult rehabilitation is a well-studied & documented field of psychology,' he replied that same day in a separate post. 'But like I said, I'm not a Trump supporter. So your accusations are meaningless.' 'I'm not MAGA,' he wrote in August 2023. 'I didn't vote for Trump the first time and I hoped he would not run again because I believe he is too polarizing.' Earlier this month, Heap clarified that he was referring to the presidential primary when he said he didn't vote for Trump the first time." [Arizona Republic, [6/26/24](#)]

Heap said he "proudly voted" for Trump in 2016 and 2020 and will do so again — "proudly" — in 2024. "He went onto to say he 'proudly voted' for Trump in 2016 and 2020 and will do so again — 'proudly' — in 2024, in a 27-paragraph post that invoked MAGA no fewer than six times, with a 'We the People' thrown in to boot." [Arizona Republic, [6/26/24](#)]

Heap was endorsed by a number of top Arizona Trump allies. “Heap, who is endorsed by a number of top Arizona Trump allies, has tried to thread a particular needle - casting doubt on the elections process and raising allegations of impropriety without committing to saying that the 2020 or 2022 elections were fraudulent. When asked in interviews and public forums if he believed the 2020 election was stolen, Heap has consistently said, ‘I don't make statements that I can't prove.’” [Boston Globe, 7/5/24]

Heap was endorsed by former Sheriff Joe Arpaio. “Former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio was also implicated in the scheme and accused of working with Thomas to investigate political rivals. Heap recently announced an endorsement from Arpaio. While two other deputies of Thomas were also disbarred for their participation in the cases, Heap does not have a disciplinary record with the State Bar and his name was never mentioned in connection with Thomas’ efforts.” [Arizona Capitol Times, 7/12/24]

Heap was endorsed by Kari Lake, Rep. Andy Biggs, Rep. Paul Gosar, and Rep. Eli Crane. “Heap has been endorsed by Lake, as well as Arizona Congressmen Andy Biggs, Paul Gosar and Eli Crane, who are all members of the congressional House Freedom Caucus, while Richer has the backing of more traditional Republicans like former Govs. Jan Brewer and Doug Ducey.” [Arizona Mirror, 7/12/24]

- **Heap “trumpeted endorsements from Senate candidate Kari Lake and MAGA Reps. Eli Crane, Andy Biggs and Paul Gosar all of whom have questioned the integrity of Arizona's elections.”** “Heap has refused to give a straight answer on his beliefs surrounding election conspiracies in 2020 and 2022. He's also trumpeted endorsements from Senate candidate Kari Lake and MAGA Reps. Eli Crane, Andy Biggs and Paul Gosar all of whom have questioned the integrity of Arizona's elections.” [Phoenix New Times, 7/31/24]

Heap “pals around with election deniers in the state legislature, including Arizona Freedom Caucus leader Sen. Jake Hoffman, one of Arizona's fake electors who was indicted in May for his alleged role in attempting to overturn the 2020 presidential election.” “Heap also pals around with election deniers in the state legislature, including Arizona Freedom Caucus leader Sen. Jake Hoffman, one of Arizona's fake electors who was indicted in May for his alleged role in attempting to overturn the 2020 presidential election. Hoffman also serves as Heap's chief strategist and consultant for his recorder campaign. In his celebratory social media post, Heap thanked Hoffman as well as Turning Point USA, the Valley-based, right-wing conservative group that disseminates stolen election conspiracy theories.” [Phoenix New Times, 7/31/24]

- **Heap thanked Hoffman, who serves as Heap’s chief strategist and consultant for his recorder campaign.** “Hoffman also serves as Heap's chief strategist and consultant for his recorder campaign. In his celebratory social media post, Heap thanked Hoffman as well as Turning Point USA, the Valley-based, right-wing conservative group that disseminates stolen election conspiracy theories.” [Phoenix New Times, 7/31/24]

Heap was recruited to run by a state senator who was later indicted for his role in an alleged ‘fake elector’ scheme. “In Maricopa County, Ariz., elections official Stephen Richer, a Republican who defended the county's voting systems, for example, lost a GOP primary last month to Justin Heap. Heap was recruited to run by a state senator who was later indicted for his role in an alleged ‘fake elector’ scheme to help Trump, according to NPR.” [Orlando Sentinel, 8/13/24]

- **PBS Reporter Stephanie Sy: Heap was “recruited by one of the Arizonans behind the so-called fake elector scheme to try and change Arizona's votes to the Trump column in 2020.”** “Your opponent in the primary, Representative Justin Heap, was recruited by one of the Arizonans behind the so-called fake elector scheme to try and change Arizona's votes to the Trump column in 2020.” [PBS, [8/7/24](#)]

2024: Heap spoke at a Trump rally little more than 30 minutes before former President Donald Trump was expected to take the stage, a prime time slot for a local race. “Republican Justin Heap used his time on stage to make his first appeal to voters outside his base since winning his primary for Maricopa County recorder last month. He will face Democrat Tim Stringham for the seat in November. Swing voters are expected to play a key role in the pivotal race, which will determine who controls voter registration and early voting in Arizona’s most populous county. Heap’s remarks came a little more than 30 minutes before former President Donald Trump was expected to take the stage, a prime time slot for a local race.” [Arizona Republic, 8/22/24]

Heap echoed Trump’s claims that Kamala Harris used AI to inflate her crowd sizes. “State Rep. Justin Heap, who is running for Maricopa County recorder, echoed Trump claims that Harris is using artificial intelligence to inflate her crowd sizes. ‘You don’t need to use AI to make it look like the seats are full,’ Heap said.” [Arizona Republic, 8/24/24]

Reproductive Rights

Heap voted against a bill (HB 2677) that repeals the near-total ban on abortion from 1864. [House Third Reading - HB 2677, Arizona Legislature, [4/24/24](#)]

Heap voted in favor of a bill (SB 1600) that would bill that required providers to try to preserve the life of any infant born alive. [Choicetracker.org, accessed [8/27/24](#); SB1600, Arizona Legislature, [3/30/23](#)]

Heap sponsored legislation that required public disclosure of companies that donate or invest in organizations that promote, facilitate, or advocate for abortions for minors. [Choicetracker.org, accessed [8/27/24](#); SB1146, Arizona Legislature, [1/24/23](#)]

- **Heap voted in favor of a bill (SB 1146) that required public disclosure of companies that donate or invest in organizations that promote, facilitate, or advocate for abortions for minors.** [Choicetracker.org, accessed [8/27/24](#); SB1146, Arizona Legislature, [5/15/23](#)]

2023: Heap on abortion: “You are killing an innocence child.” “Reasons you should not get an abortion: 1)You are killing an innocence child.2)You are killing an innocence child 3)You are killing an innocence child. Rinse and repeat.” [X, [12/14/23](#)]

Justin Heap: “Abortionists are a tiny subset of medical providers.” “The most common accusations leveled by pro-abortion groups is that the legislature wants to come between ‘a woman and her doctor.’ But the vast majority of OBGYNs will not perform abortions. Abortionists are a tiny subset of medical providers. So the interaction we are talking about is between ‘a woman who sought out an abortionists, and an abortionist who's only job is to provide an abortion.’ Therefore, this pro-abortion platitude is similar to arguing that U.S. Military policy comes between ‘the American People and Bomb Manufacturers.’” [X, [12/17/23](#)]

Justin Heap: “There are no ‘unwanted children...’” “There are no ‘unwanted children’ we have more people waiting on the adopt lists each year than we have abortion each year.” [X, [12/13/23](#)]

Justin Heap: “Could I equally claim it is the woman’s fault for ovulating and getting pregnant? I’m fine with an abortion exception for rape cases...” “100% of unwanted pregnancies are also caused by an egg. So could I equally claim it is the woman's fault for ovulating and getting pregnant? I’m fine with an abortion exception for rape cases, but that's like .05% of abortions. In 99.95+% of abortions, it is consensual sex and both parties are equally responsible. Woman are not the victims of male sperm. Also, how do you know I don't have a uterus. Isn't your side always warning you against assuming peoples gender.” [X, [12/12/23](#)]

Justin Heap: “If men have not say on abortion, why should women have a say on child support?” “If men have not say on abortion, why should women have a say on child support? His wallet, his choice, right?” [X, [12/12/23](#)]

Justin Heap: “Restricting...abortion...to...before viability is reasonable given the gravity of the act.” “A potential human life is still worthy or respect and dignity and (I think) some protection under the law. I'm not a hard liner. I don't seek to ban all abortion, but I think restricting it to earlier in the pregnancy(certainly before viability) is reasonable given the gravity of the act.” [X, [12/14/23](#)]

Justin Heap called doctors who provided abortions a “small ghoulish click...Most people who choose to be OBGYNs do so because they love babies and want to assist in birth, not because they want to crush babies heads with clamps and pull their bodies parts out with forceps...” “Most OBGYNs refuse to perform abortions. Abortionists are a small click of doctors. It's not the case that doctors are pro-choice and just a few old male legislators(women are the leaders of the pro-life movement) are attacking them. Most people who choose to be OBGYNs do so because they love babies and want to assist in birth, not because they want to crush babies heads with clamps and pull their bodies parts out with forceps. That's just you and a small ghoulish click of doctors.” [X, [12/12/23](#)]

Justin Heap: “Abortion is almost NEVER medically necessary...” “Abortion is almost NEVER medically necessary and it certainly isn't ‘care.’” [X, [12/10/23](#)]

Justin Heap: “The only goal of abortion is to destroy new life...” “Because the only goal of IVF is to bring more life into the world, the only goal of abortion is to destroy new life and prevent it from coming into the world. Simple as.” [X, [12/12/23](#)]

Justin Heap: “Abortion is not about ‘health’ and certainly isn’t about ‘care.’” “Ok, I'll address it. Abortion is not about ‘health’ and certainly isn't about ‘care.’ The Pro-Life position on abortion is easy to understand. It has nothing to do with ‘Controlling women's bodies’ or ‘Stripping reproductive rights’ or any other tired trope the democrats trot out. It's much simpler than that: We believe it's a Baby. And if it is a baby, then it is entitled to dignity and respect and some protections under the law. If it is, as your side has claimed, just a fetus(Which just means ‘baby’ in latin) a clump of cells, a tumor, or a parasite then it can be disposed of without any concern. What I can't accept is the argument that if the mother wants it, it is a baby, but if she doesn't want it, then it is just a lifeless clump of cells. I do not accept that the value of a human life is determined by whether someone else wants them to exist. That way lays the path to pure human evil. I don't know where Cano got this 45 number, but every one of the actions he's referring to was done to protect life. Because of those actions there are many thousands of Arizonans living today, with their own lives, hopes, and dreams. So I feel no shame for the policies that protected them allowed them to live.” [X, [6/26/23](#)]

Justin Heap: “The end goal of abortion is neither the ‘health’ nor ‘care’ of the mother and totally hostile to the health and care of the baby.” “The end goal of abortion is neither the ‘health’ nor ‘care’ of the mother and totally hostile to the health and care of the baby.” [X, [4/22/23](#)]

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

April 2024: Heap missed the campaign finance deadline, filing a day late. “Two candidates for county positions that oversee campaign finance failed to turn in their most recent reports on time. Campaign finance reports detailing candidate fundraising and spending from the start of the year to April 1 were due on Monday. Republican Justin Heap, a state lawmaker from Mesa running for recorder, missed that deadline. So did Democrat David Sandoval, a Peoria Unified School District Governing Board member running for county supervisor in District 4. Heap filed his report late on Tuesday. Sandoval hadn't turned his in as of midday Wednesday but said he intended to turn it in after being contacted by The Arizona Republic. Link to Image It's not uncommon for candidates to file their reports late. But all of Heap's opponents — incumbent Republican Stephen Richer, Republican Don Hiatt and Democrat Tim Stringham — turned in their reports on time. So did Republicans Debbie Lesko and Bob Branch, the other supervisor hopefuls in District 4, and the rest of the supervisor candidates across the county.” [Arizona Republic, 4/18/24]

Arizona Republic’s analysis of SOS records found Heap repeatedly failed to list contributions from political action committees on his legislative campaign finance reports. “Both candidates also have a history of erring in campaign finance rules. Heap has repeatedly failed to list contributions from political action committees on his legislative campaign finance reports, according to records from the Arizona Secretary of State's Office.” [Arizona Republic, 4/18/24]

Heap filed a campaign finance report 43 days past the deadline and failed to list \$2,550 in political campaign contributions from the Arizona Association of Realtors, Arizona Public Service, and other organizations. “Heap launched his run for county recorder on Feb. 28. That same day, he turned in a campaign finance report summarizing his campaign account activities in 2023. The report came 43 days past the deadline and failed to list \$2,550 in political campaign contributions from the Arizona Association of Realtors, electric utility Arizona Public Service and other organizations.” [Arizona Republic, 4/18/24]

- **Heap claimed he didn’t report the contributions because he did not deposit them into his campaign.** “Heap in a March tweet indicated he didn't report the contributions because he ‘did not cash or deposit into my campaign. I have the voided checks in my file and have notified the lobbyists to update their records.’” [Arizona Republic, 4/18/24]
- **Heap’s 2022 campaign finance reports omitted nearly \$3,000 in campaign contributions from a variety of political action committees.** “Previous campaign finance reports filed in 2022, when Heap was running for his current state lawmaker seat, omitted nearly \$3,000 in campaign contributions from a variety of political action committees. Campaign finance records from those committees reflect contributions to Heap that are not included in his own reports. Heap did disclose one campaign contribution from the Arizona Free Enterprise Club for \$2,500. But even that number may not be correct — the Arizona Free Enterprise Club listed the contribution as just \$2,000 on its own campaign finance report.” [Arizona Republic, 4/18/24]

Receipts

Heap has outraised and outspent Stringham in the race to date, and holds a significant advantage in cash on hand. According to pre-primary reports filed July 2024, Heap reported a balance of \$87,386.52. He reported receiving \$138,020.85 to date in the election cycle and disbursing \$50,634.33. Stringham reported a closing balance of \$29,278.92. He reported receiving \$77,1787.24 to date in the election cycle and disbursing \$47,908.32.

Justin Heap, Top Contributions, 2024				
Date	Donor	Occupation	Amount	Cycle To Date
5/12/2024	Don Luke	President, Dealership	\$3,900	\$6,600
5/12/2024	Debra Luke	Interior designer, self	\$3,900	\$6,600
5/29/2024	William Jacoby	Radiologist, Rad Partners	\$1,041.98	\$2,323.86
5/31/2024	Peter Martens	Retired	\$5,000	\$5,000
5/31/2024	Elaine Martens	Retired	\$5,000	\$5,000
6/1/2024	Bobbie Pamplin	Retired	\$1,250	\$1,250
6/3/2024	Joe Farnsworth	Real Estate, Farnsworth Realty Management	\$1,000	\$1,000
6/8/2024	Ralph Heap	Retired	\$6,650	\$6,650
6/9/2024	Denise Heap	Retired	\$6,650	\$6,650
6/11/2024	Susan Gressel	Retired	\$5,000	\$5,521.15
6/11/2024	Judith Levenbaum	Retired	\$1,041.98	\$1,563.13
6/11/2024	Rex Ford	Board Member, Lafayette Instrument Company	\$260.73	\$1,260.73
6/11/2024	Scott Schirmer	Real Estate, Self	\$6,646.15	\$6,646.15
6/11/2024	Jennifer Wright	Attorney, State of Arizona	\$1,000	\$1,000
6/24/2024	Alan Nelsen	Retired	\$2,604.48	\$2,604.48
6/25/2024	David Fordham	Retired	\$1,000	\$1,000
6/29/2025	Lorraine Kehoe	Retired	\$2,000	\$2,104.48
6/8/24	Ted Heap	Real Estate, Bellwether Enterprises	\$1,041.98	\$1,041.98
3/3/2024	Vernon Vaughn	Retired	\$3,300	\$3,300
3/3/2024	Vicki Vaughn	Retired	\$3,300	\$3,300
3/7/2024	Tim Grant	Real Estate, Scottsdale Investment Management	\$1,041.98	\$1,041.98
3/4/2024	John Bailey	CEO, Bailey Properties	\$6,650	\$6,650
3/4/2024	Jan Bailey	Retired	\$6,650	\$6,650

3/5/2024	Tatnall Hillman	Retired	\$6,650	\$6,650
3/10/2024	Robert Olsen	Requested	\$5,000	\$5,000
3/14/2024	Carleen Brophy	Retired	\$5,000	\$5,000

[2024 Q2 Report, Heap for Recorder, [7/15/24](#); 2024 Q1 Report, Heap for Recorder, [4/16/24](#)]

Justin Heap, PAC Contributions, 2024			
Date	Donor	Amount	Cycle To Date
6/29/2024	Politics Uncorked PAC	\$1,500	\$1,500

[2024 Q2 Report, Heap for Recorder, [7/15/24](#); 2024 Q1 Report, Heap for Recorder, [4/16/24](#)]

Contributions

2023: Heap contributed \$3,500 to his own legislative campaign. [OpenSecrets, accessed [8/20/24](#)]

2021: Heap contributed \$5,000 to his own legislative campaign. [OpenSecrets, accessed [8/20/24](#)]