

Maricopa County Supervisors District 4

This document analyzes the race for Maricopa Board of Supervisors in District 4. As of April 2024, the race [included](#) three candidates: Republican Congresswoman Debbie Lesko, Republican Parks and Recreation Commissioner Dr. Bob Branch; and Democratic Peoria Unified School District Governing Board Member David Sandoval. Incumbent Republican Clint Hickman announced his retirement in early 2024 after [citing](#) concerns for his and his family's safety amid threats from election deniers in 2020, 2022, and [2024](#). Both Branch and Lesko are staunch Trump supporters who backed his claims of fraud in the 2020 election. Lesko, who announced she wouldn't seek reelection to Congress to run for the Board of Supervisors, is the presumed frontrunner in the race.

Primary Election Day [occurs](#) on July 30, 2024, with early voting running from June 15 to July 26.

Key findings:

Frontrunner Debbie Lesko overcame a series of personal and financial problems to serve in the Arizona Legislature and U.S. Congress, where she forged a staunchly conservative voting record. Lesko founded the Koch-associated Arizona Federation of Taxpayers in 2006, three years later winning a seat in the Arizona Legislature. Lesko served as an Arizona State Representative until 2015. She served in the state senate until winning a special congressional election in 2018. She announced plans to retire from Congress in early 2024. In her elected roles, she has amassed a staunchly conservative voting record on abortion, education, guns, and MAGA. Lesko supported the overturning of Roe v. Wade and has been commended by the NRA for “standing strong for Second Amendment rights.” Lesko has voted against [LGBTQ rights](#), and [opposes Obamacare](#).

Lesko is an election denier, who worked to overturn the results of the 2020 election. In 2020, Lesko supported the Texas v. Pennsylvania lawsuit to overturn the absentee ballots submitted throughout states in the U.S. In January 2021, she voted to reject the electors from Arizona, who were to deliver the state's results affirming Biden's win over Trump. Following her actions--and her prior defense of Trump during his 2020 impeachment proceedings over soliciting foreign interference in U.S. elections—Trump called her a “conservative warrior” and endorsed her reelection in 2022. While in her supervisor campaign, Lesko has promised to restore “fair” and “transparent” elections, press accounts have referred to her as an “election denier.” She has expressed support for the conspiratorial and specious documentary, 2000 Mules.

Maricopa's 4th Supervisors District is a deeply conservative district, which has favored Republicans in recent decades. In recent decades, Republicans have controlled the fourth supervisors district in Maricopa County. Incumbent Clint Hickman most recently defeated his Democratic opponent by 15 points in 2020. Lesko's seats in the Legislature—as well as her congressional district—fall within District 4, giving her high name recognition in the district. Lesko won her [2020](#) reelection to Congress with 57 percent of the vote and faced no opposition in [2022](#).

Republican Bob Branch is rightwing activist who believes “election integrity issues” plague Maricopa. Branch believes the 2020 was riddled with errors stemming from the “left” seeking to “disenfranchise” conservative voters. He has been endorsed by MAGA Sheriff Joe Arpaio, and has pledged, if elected, to ensure the “election integrity issues” of the past are not repeated. Branch is a staunch Trump supporter, noting that “hell yeah, I want Trump to win!” Branch has noted that “if you fix election integrity issues for the county, you fix them for the state, and then you're doing that for the nation.”

Candidates

Debra “Debbie” Kay Lesko – Republican Party

Robert “Bob” A. Branch - Republican Party

David Matthew Sandoval - Democratic Party

Campaign Finance

Candidate	Total Raised	Total Expenditures	Cash on Hand
Debbie Lesko	\$142,372	\$14,175	\$128,197
Bob Branch	\$25,000	\$10,554	\$14,446
David Sandoval	No Activity	No Activity	No Activity

[Maricopa County Recorder, Accessed: 4/24/24]

Debbie Lesko

Lesko transferred \$76,070 from her congressional campaign committee to her board of supervisors committee. [Debbie Lesko For County Supervisor Q1 2024 Report, [4/11/24](#)]

Bob Branch

Branch donated \$25,000 to his own campaign – representing his only campaign donation for Q1 2024. [Bob Branch For County Supervisor Q1 2024 Report, [4/13/24](#)]

Q1 2024: Branch disbursed campaign funds for campaign print-out materials and signature collecting. [Bob Branch For County Supervisor Q1 2024 Report, [4/13/24](#)]

David Sandoval

Unlike his GOP rivals, Sandoval turned in his campaign finance report 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... 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 Central, [4/18/24](#)]

DEBBIE LESKO

Twitter: [@DebbieLesko](#)

Instagram: [@replesko](#)

Facebook: [Congresswoman Debbie Lesko](#)

LinkedIn: [Debbie Lesko](#) (outdated)

Background & Philosophy

During her time in Congress, Lesko was an “ardent supporter of former President Donald Trump, [and] received an endorsement from him during her [2022] election.” [Associated Press, [10/17/23](#)]

2024: Arizona’s KJZZ 91.5 News-cap podcast asked “what motivated election denier Debbie Lesko to run for county supervisor?” [KJZZ 91.5, [2/23/24](#)]

2022: The Washington Post identified Lesko as one Congress’ “Republican election deniers.” [Washington Post, [10/6/22](#)]

3/18/24: Lesko submitted 2,350 signatures in her official filing for Maricopa 4 Supervisor. [2024 Maricopa County Primary Election Candidates, [4/20/24](#)]

2024: After leaving Congress, Lesko announced bid for Maricopa Board of Supervisors. “U.S. Rep. Debbie Lesko, who is stepping away from Capitol Hill, is eyeing a spot on the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. According to her filing, she will be running to replace Clint Hickman in District 4, a district that has traditionally elected Republicans. Hickman, a Republican, was appointed to the position in 2013, holding the West Valley district for more than a decade. Lesko, also a Republican, won a special election in 2018 for her U.S. House of Representatives seat and won reelections three times since then. She announced in October 2023 that she wouldn’t seek reelection this year.” [KTAR News 92.3, [2/19/24](#)]

- **Lesko announced her retirement from congress in October 2023.** “U.S. Rep. Debbie Lesko said Monday she’s excited about the next chapter of her Arizona political career while expressing frustration about her six-year tenure in Washington. Lesko, a West Valley Republican, announced in October that she wouldn’t seek reelection in 2024 after three-plus terms. She didn’t have any specific plans for her next move until Maricopa County Supervisor Clint Hickman revealed earlier this month that he wasn’t running again.” [KTAR News 92.3, [2/27/24](#)]
- **Lesko: “I was retiring from Congress because I want to be close to my family, but all of a sudden, Clint Hickman says he’s not running for reelection...A few people texted me said you should consider doing this.”** “‘I was retiring from Congress because I want to be close to my family, but all of a sudden, Clint Hickman says he’s not running for reelection,’ Lesko told KTAR News 92.3 FM’s The Mike Broomhead Show. ‘A few people texted me said you should consider doing this.’” [KTAR News 92.3, [2/27/24](#)]
- **Lesko called the Maricopa Board of Supervisors “a natural fit” for her due to her familiarity with the district.** “Lesko, who spent a decade as a state lawmaker before heading to the U.S. House in 2018, decided it made sense for her to run for county supervisor in her GOP-leaning district. ‘I know all these people,’ she said. ‘This is a natural fit, and I know what the issues are in the West Valley, and I want to continue to help them. So, all of a sudden, God has opened up this other path for me, and I’m really excited about it.’” [KTAR News 92.3, [2/27/24](#)]
- **Lesko wished retiring Maricopa 4 Supervisor Clint Hickman and his family well.** “Thank you Maricopa County Supervisor Clint Hickman for your service to the great people in the West Valley and Maricopa County! I wish you and your family many blessings in your future endeavors. Your work for the people in the West Valley will be remembered.” [Twitter, [2/16/24](#)]

Lesko’s bid for Maricopa 4 Supervisor spurred Republicans Jack Hastings and Robert Canterbury to drop out of the primary race. “Two candidates for Maricopa County supervisor have dropped their campaigns since retiring U.S. Rep. Debbie Lesko announced she would run for the seat in District 4. Republicans Jack

Hastings and Robert Canterbury both said they would halt their election efforts. That leaves just one candidate, Republican Bob Branch, running against the sitting congresswoman. The district covers much of the northwest Valley. Lesko's surprise campaign announcement came days after sitting Supervisor Clint Hickman revealed he wouldn't seek reelection after more than a decade on the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors." [Arizona Central, [3/2/24](#)]

Lesko cited difficulty with passing legislation under a democratic Senate and president as an added reason for her retirement from Congress. "While Lesko said family was the main reason she's retiring from Congress, she would have been more willing to deal with being away from home so much if she felt that her time in Washington was more productive. 'I always have to cram in seeing all my family in like a day or two, and I would continue to sacrifice doing that if I felt that we were really getting a lot of stuff done,' she said. 'But with a Democrat Senate, a Democrat president, it's hard to move the ball. The U.S. House of Representatives can stop bad things from happening, but it's really frustrating right now in Washington, D.C.'" [KTAR News 92.3, [2/27/24](#)]

Lesko said "I really think Republicans need to do a better job of trying to unite," because the GOP ran into difficulties in thinking more independently than democrats. "Lesko also expressed frustration about her GOP colleagues. "I really think Republicans need to do a better job of trying to unite," she said. "Now, we're just independent thinkers. We think differently than the Democrats, right? So, there's a lot of different opinions, and so I hope we can get it done for the sake of our country." [KTAR News 92.3, [2/27/24](#)]

- **Lesko: "It's just very, very frustrating that we don't get a lot of information, even as members of the Republican Congress."** "Lesko said it's gotten to the point where House leadership isn't telling members much about ongoing budget negotiations because of concerns about leaks to the media. 'We had a Republican conference call just the other night, and nothing came out of it. I mean, it was very disappointing, and that's one of the reasons that I have decided not to run for reelection,' she said. 'It's just very, very frustrating that we don't get a lot of information, even as members of the Republican Congress.'" [KTAR News 92.3, [2/27/24](#)]

Nov. 14, 1958: Lesko was born in Sheboygan, WI, as Debra Kay Lorenz. [Nexis Comprehensive Persons Report, Accessed: 4/24/24]

1981: Lesko received a B.A. in Business from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "The relationship began in the Milwaukee area in the mid-1980s, not long after she graduated as Debra Lorenz in 1981 from the University of Wisconsin with a bachelor's degree in business." [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#)]

1985: Lesko moved to Phoenix, Arizona from Wisconsin with her then-boyfriend (Jeffrey Allen Ignas) as he fled police in their home state. "U.S. Rep. Debbie Lesko, like many transplants, has answered the question about why in the 1980s she traded her home in Wisconsin for the Arizona desert. Like many others, she has said the warmer weather beckoned her and her ex-husband. "We moved down to Phoenix, and that's the story," she said in a September 2020 interview with a podcast for Phoenix Christian Preparatory School. "That's why I'm in Phoenix, Arizona, and I love Phoenix, Arizona. Wisconsin is beautiful, but it's way too cold in the winter." The two-term Republican left out a more significant reason: She joined her then-boyfriend as he fled the police...She met Herald in July 1984 when she was taking graduate classes at Marquette University and working as a bank officer, according to court records. According to two people who knew her from her time with Herald, he swept her away from another man over her parents' disapproval...Herald faced two dozen criminal charges when he skipped court in Wisconsin in January 1985 and became a fugitive...About the time they left Wisconsin and moved to Arizona, Lorenz was pregnant." [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#)]

- **From the mid-1980s to the early 1990s, Lesko spent her time with the "career criminal," eventually becoming a key witness against him in state probes of the crimes that forced them to frequently relocate.** "The fuller story reveals a decade spent alongside a career criminal, with their lives

cycling between temporary comfort in a new location to a hasty exit ahead of creditors or police. In that era, stretching from the mid-1980s to the early 1990s, Lesko lived in Wisconsin, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. New details uncovered by The Republic include her status as a key witness to her then-husband's felonies in Scottsdale, financial problems in New Mexico, more than a dozen payouts to her business customers from an Arizona fund to cover derelict contractors, and multiple pleas to judges for mercy for her then-husband and business partner." [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#)]

1985 - 1993: Lesko was married to Jeffrey Allen Ignas. "Court, business and property records provide details about the past of a woman whose journey to Washington was longer and more improbable than her supporters might have guessed when they first elected her to Congress in April 2018. She was married for eight years to a career criminal born as Jeffrey Ignas, who later used aliases including the surnames of Stallcup, Baron and Harris...Herald (Ignas) denies ever abusing Lorenz. In a March email to The Republic, he wrote, 'In the past and my younger days I was a piss poor citizen to society, but not to Debra and I am nothing like that now or what Debra says I am.'" [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#)]

- **While married to Ignas, Lesko had followed his lead in using other aliases, including: "Debbie Harris," "Debra Ignas," and "Debra Howard."** [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#)]
- **Lesko was interviewed by detectives in the 1985 case that sent Ignas to prison, though was not imprisoned herself despite being suspected of helping him craft documents for fraud.** "Scottsdale detectives interviewed Lesko, then known by her maiden name, Debra Lorenz, and a series of aliases, in a 1985 case that sent her husband to prison, police records show. Authorities suspected she may have helped craft documents in connection with his fraudulent activity, but court records suggest they were intent on putting him, not her, behind bars. Lesko is running unopposed for a third full term in Congress in a safely Republican district. She declined to discuss with The Republic the 1985 probe and other events in her first marriage." [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#)]

1987: Lesko and Ignas (a.k.a. Herald) started a construction equipment business called A-AA Sign Company, in New Mexico, for which she served as secretary and treasurer. "By early 1987, Herald and Lorenz tried their hand with a company, called A-AA Sign Co., an alphabetic combination they used in other business ventures as well. He was the corporate president; she was the company's secretary and treasurer. Business records show that in January 1987 they filed papers to incorporate — using aliases — on the same day they began receiving loans totaling \$30,000, ostensibly to help them make a sign for a Holiday Inn. They intended to buy equipment for the new business with the loans and use it as collateral for the debt. Shortly after receiving the first of two loans, they bought \$2,200 worth of carpeting, drapes and rods for their home, according to a lien later filed in the matter." [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#)]

- **Lesko and Ignas duplicated their business in Texas, around the same time their New Mexico operation defaulted on a \$19,000 remainder for an initially \$30,000 loan.** "In March 1987, with \$30,000 in loan payments due, the couple created another company with the same name in Texas. They eventually paid the New Mexico bank \$14,000 but defaulted on the rest, which ran to \$19,000 with interest. Meanwhile, their New Mexico sign company filed for bankruptcy in May 1987. With the couple out of state, the Albuquerque home was later foreclosed." [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#)]

1988: Lesko was charged with a misdemeanor for tampering with government records in Conroe, TX, though the case was dropped in 1994. "Lorenz had a new problem at the time. Authorities in Conroe charged her in April 1988 with a misdemeanor accusing her of destroying government records. The type of records are not identified in the few surviving documents on the case. In 2020, Lesko said she could not recall what that allegation involved. Prosecutors dropped the case in 1994, saying it was 'in the best interest of justice due to the age of these cases, unavailability of witnesses, low probability of conviction, and nature of the offenses.'

Two weeks after she was charged in 1988, authorities foreclosed on the mobile home in Texas.” [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#)]

- **1988: Lesko’s husband, Ignas, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for fraud. He was released in 1992.** “In June 1988, Herald was sentenced in Arizona to 10 years behind bars for the 1985 fraud case. Authorities in Wisconsin agreed to drop the charges against him on the condition that he pay \$4,700 in restitution to those he had cheated...Herald was released from prison in January 1992 and moved in with Lorenz and their daughter.” [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#)]

1989: Lesko started the company AAA Fence Co., which had its business license terminated in 1992 following a customer complaint. “In March 1989, Lorenz asked a judge to cut her husband’s prison sentence, saying she was raising their daughter on her own while battling other jurisdictions over Herald’s prior troubles...Ten days later, she formed a business, identified in records as AAA Fence Co. Herald was released from prison in January 1992 and moved in with Lorenz and their daughter. Within months, however, financial woes and business troubles surfaced again. In October, the couple filed for bankruptcy. A week after they did so, a Scottsdale customer filed a complaint against AAA Fence Co. with the state Registrar of Contractors. Two months later, the state terminated the company’s business license. But that didn’t end the complaints.” [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#)]

1992: Lesko and her husband, Ignas, filed for bankruptcy protection after being sued for 1) failure to pay a \$10,000 rental equipment bill and 2) failure to pay an unidentified \$11,000 bill. “In early 1993, Lorenz and Herald faced a pair of lawsuits from creditors, each wanting more than \$10,000. In May 1993, the couple filed a second bankruptcy case. It appeared to be the end of their relationship as well.” [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#)]

1993: Lesko filed for divorce from Jeffrey Allen Ignas. “In early 1993, Lorenz and Herald faced a pair of lawsuits from creditors, each wanting more than \$10,000. In May 1993, the couple filed a second bankruptcy case. It appeared to be the end of their relationship as well. Two days after filing the second case, Lorenz sought a court order to prevent Herald from taking their daughter out of state, as she said he had threatened to do. A day later, she moved to Glendale, away from Herald. By June 1993, Herald was accused of more fraud that eventually would send him back to prison in Arizona. In September, Lorenz filed for divorce. By November, a judge ordered Herald behind bars. The divorce was finalized in late December.” [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#)]

- **Lesko alleged Ignas had hit her in the stomach while she was pregnant – on top of other abuse.** “By then, Lesko had had enough. In September 1993, she filed for divorce from Ignas. ‘The abuse began early on in our relationship,’ she said. ‘I remember a specific incident, late in my pregnancy with my daughter, when he punched the hell out of me in the stomach. It was so horrible; I could have lost my baby. The abuse continued from there.’” [Arizona Central Republic, [10/23/20](#)]

1993: Lesko married and had a child with Joe Lesko. “By June 1993, Herald was accused of more fraud that eventually would send him back to prison in Arizona. In September, Lorenz filed for divorce. By November, a judge ordered Herald behind bars. The divorce was finalized in late December. Lorenz married her current husband, Joe Lesko, a week after that. Soon after, she gave birth to a child with Lesko.” [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#)]

2006: Lesko ran for a position on the Peoria, Arizona, School Board. “From there, Debbie Lesko’s life traced the more familiar path known to her supporters. She became active in her children’s schools and helped convince a neighborhood to construct a wall to drown out a busy intersection. In 2006, she launched her elective career by running for the school board in Peoria. In an interview with The Republic at the time, she cited her qualifications this way: ‘I am a hard worker. I am honest. I question things. I listen to people,’ she said. ‘I’m not a person that sits idly by and waits for other people to take action. If I truly believe in something, I will get involved. ... I’m a person who gets things accomplished.’” [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#)]

2006: Lesko founded the Arizona Federation of Taxpayers, which came to have ties to conservative billionaire David Koch. “In 2006, she launched her elective career by running for the school board in Peoria. In an interview with The Republic at the time, she cited her qualifications this way: “I am a hard worker. I am honest. I question things. I listen to people,” she said. “I’m not a person that sits idly by and waits for other people to take action. If I truly believe in something, I will get involved. ... I’m a person who gets things accomplished.” About the same time, Lesko was a founding director of the Arizona Federation of Taxpayers Association, a group with ties to David Koch, the late conservative billionaire who advocated for low-tax policies.” [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#)]

2009 – 2015: Lesko served in the Arizona House of Representatives. “Debra ‘Debbie’ Lesko assumed office as U.S. representative for Arizona's 8th Congressional District on May 7, 2018...She moved to Arizona in the 1980s and owned a construction sales business. Lesko previously served as a member of the Arizona Senate from 2015 to 2018, serving as president pro tempore from 2017 to 2018, and in the Arizona House of Representatives from 2009 to 2015.” [Iowa State University Archive of Women’s Political Communications, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]

- **2008: Lesko won the first seat in Arizona’s 9th Legislative District with 37,762 votes.** [State of Arizona Official Canvass – 2008 General Election, [12/1/08](#)]
 - **2010: Lesko won the first seat in Arizona’s 9th Legislative District with 32,423 votes.** [State of Arizona Official Canvass – 2010 General Election, [11/29/10](#)]
 - **2012: Lesko won the first seat in Arizona’s 9th Legislative District with 41,023 votes.** [State of Arizona Official Canvass – 2012 General Election, [12/3/12](#)]
- **2009 – 2010: Lesko served on the Public Employees Retirement and Entitlement Reform Committee, and as vice chair of the Ways and Means Committee.** [Ballotpedia, Accessed: [4/25/24](#); Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]
- **2011 – 2012: Lesko served on the Rules Committee, and as chair of the Ways and Means Committee.** [Ballotpedia, Accessed: [4/25/24](#); Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]
- **2013 – 2014: Lesko served on the Federalism and Fiscal Responsibility Committee, the Reform and Human Services Committee, the Budget Committee, and as Chair of the Ways and Means Committee.** [Ballotpedia, Accessed: [4/25/24](#); Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

2015 – 2018: Lesko served in the Arizona State Senate. “Debra ‘Debbie’ Lesko assumed office as U.S. representative for Arizona's 8th Congressional District on May 7, 2018, after winning a special election to replace Trent Franks, who resigned on Feb. 27, 2018. She won re-election to the seat in the 2018 midterm elections. Lesko was born on Nov. 14, 1958, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. She received a Bachelor of Arts in business from the University of Wisconsin. She moved to Arizona in the 1980s and owned a construction sales business. Lesko previously served as a member of the Arizona Senate from 2015 to 2018, serving as president pro tempore from 2017 to 2018, and in the Arizona House of Representatives from 2009 to 2015.” [Iowa State University Archive of Women’s Political Communications, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]

- **2014: Lesko won the seat for the Arizona Senate’s 21st District with 32,119 votes.** [State of Arizona Official Canvass – 2014 General Election, [12/1/14](#)]

- **2016: Lesko won the seat for the Arizona Senate's 21st District with 64,404 votes, having been unopposed.** [State of Arizona Official Canvass – 2016 General Election, [11/29/16](#)]
- **2015 – 2017: Lesko served on the Appropriations, Health and Human Services, and Water and Energy Committees, and as vice chair of the State Debt and Budget Reform Committee, and Chair of the Finance Committee.** [Ballotpedia, Accessed: [4/25/24](#); Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]
- **2017 – 2018: Lesko served on the Health and Human Services and Rules Committees, and as chair of the Appropriations Committee.** [Ballotpedia, Accessed: [4/25/24](#); Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]
- **2017 – 2018: Lesko served as Arizona Senate President Pro Tempore.** “Debra ‘Debbie’ Lesko assumed office as U.S. representative for Arizona's 8th Congressional District on May 7, 2018, after winning a special election to replace Trent Franks, who resigned on Feb. 27, 2018. She won re-election to the seat in the 2018 midterm elections. Lesko was born on Nov. 14, 1958, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. She received a Bachelor of Arts in business from the University of Wisconsin. She moved to Arizona in the 1980s and owned a construction sales business. Lesko previously served as a member of the Arizona Senate from 2015 to 2018, serving as president pro tempore from 2017 to 2018, and in the Arizona House of Representatives from 2009 to 2015.” [Iowa State University Archive of Women’s Political Communications, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]

2018 – 2025: Lesko served in the U.S. House of Representatives from Arizona’s 8th Congressional District. “Representative from Arizona; born in Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wis., 1958; graduated from Kohler High School, Kohler, Wis., 1977; B.B.A., University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis., 1981; business owner; member of the Arizona state house of representatives, 2008-2014; majority whip, 2011-2012; member of the Arizona state senate, 2015-2018, president pro tempore, 2017-2018; elected as a Republican to the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, by special election, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of United States Representative Trent Franks, and reelected to the three succeeding Congresses (April 24, 2018-present).” [Voter View, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]

- **2018: Lesko won a special election for the congressional seat, before winning the mid-term for the seat later in the year.** “Debra ‘Debbie’ Lesko assumed office as U.S. representative for Arizona's 8th Congressional District on May 7, 2018, after winning a special election to replace Trent Franks, who resigned on Feb. 27, 2018. She won re-election to the seat in the 2018 midterm elections. Lesko was born on Nov. 14, 1958, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. She received a Bachelor of Arts in business from the University of Wisconsin. She moved to Arizona in the 1980s and owned a construction sales business. Lesko previously served as a member of the Arizona Senate from 2015 to 2018, serving as president pro tempore from 2017 to 2018, and in the Arizona House of Representatives from 2009 to 2015.” [Iowa State University Archive of Women’s Political Communications, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]
- **Lesko won her 2018 general election with 55.5-percent of the vote to Democrat Hiral Tirpirneni’s 44.5-percent.** [State of Arizona Official Canvass – 2018 General Election, [11/30/18](#)]
- **Lesko won her 2020 general election with 59.6-percent of the vote to Democrat Michael Muscato’s 40.4-percent.** [State of Arizona Official Canvass – 2020 General Election, [11/24/20](#)]
- **Lesko won her 2022 general election with 96.5-percent of the vote, having faced no challengers.** [State of Arizona Official Canvass – 2022 General Election, [12/5/22](#)]

- **Lesko founded the Protect Kids Caucus and, as of 2024, served as the co-chair of the Women in STEM Caucus, the Values Action Team, the Congressional Western Caucus, and as a member of the Republican Study Committee's Steering Committee.** [Congresswoman Debbie Lesko – About, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]
- **2019 – 2020: Lesko served on the Committees on Rules, Homeland Security, and Judiciary.** [House Clerk 116th Congress (Wayback Machine), Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]
- **2021 – 2022: Lesko served on the Committee on Energy and Commerce.** [House Clerk (Wayback Machine), Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]
 - **Lesko served on the Consumer Protection and Commerce subcommittee.** [House Clerk (Wayback Machine), Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]
 - **Lesko served on the Energy subcommittee.** [House Clerk (Wayback Machine), Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]
- **2023 – 2024: Lesko served on the Committee on Energy and Commerce.** [Congresswoman Debbie Lesko – About, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]
 - **Lesko served on the Energy, Climate, and Grid Security subcommittee.** [Congresswoman Debbie Lesko – About, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]
 - **Lesko served on the Innovation, Data, and Commerce subcommittee.** [Congresswoman Debbie Lesko – About, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]
 - **Lesko was vice chair of the Oversight & Investigations subcommittee.** [Congresswoman Debbie Lesko – About, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]
- **2023 – 2024: Lesko served as the Region 13 Steering Representative for the Republican Steering Committee, and as a member of the Majority Whip Team.** [Congresswoman Debbie Lesko – About, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

2020: Lesko published leskofacts.com to rebut scrutiny of her controversial past, but reportedly took it down after being reelected. “In 2020, she put up a website, leskofacts.com, when she faced scrutiny over her past. She took down the website after she was reelected, and it appears to have remained down in periodic checks since then.” [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#)]

On The Issues

Criminal Justice

2024: Lesko: “As your County Supervisor, I will continue to prioritize law enforcement and tough on crime policies to protect our citizens.” “Government’s number one duty is to protect its people. That is why I have fought against liberal Defund the Police, Soft on Crime and Open-Border policies while in the U.S. Congress and AZ State Legislature. As your County Supervisor, I will continue to prioritize law enforcement and tough on crime policies to protect our citizens and make sure the County’s Sheriff’s Office and County Attorney’s Office have the resources they need.” [Debbie Lesko’s Agenda for a Strong & Safe Maricopa County, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

2024: Lesko: “Members of law enforcement place themselves in harm's way every day to safeguard our communities. I am grateful for our police and their families.” [Twitter, [3/14/24](#)]

2024: Lesko expressed concern about violent crime in America, and called for “law and order” to be restored. “Crime in cities across the country has ruined many Americans’ livelihoods. Small business are being robbed, restaurants are being forced to close, and everyday Americans are being assaulted or killed just walking down the street. We must restore law and order in America!” [Facebook – Congresswoman Debbie Lesko, [2/16/24](#)]

Development & Taxes

2024: Lesko: “I will continue to prioritize [Maricopa’s] fiscal responsibility and work to keep your Maricopa County property tax rates low.” Throughout my time in the U.S. Congress and AZ State Legislature I have fought for fiscal responsibility and lower taxes. Maricopa County is one of the few major counties in the nation that has a balanced budget with little to no debt. I will continue to prioritize this fiscal responsibility and work to keep your Maricopa County property tax rates low. [Debbie Lesko’s Agenda for a Strong & Safe Maricopa County, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

Lesko: “As your County Supervisor I will work to ensure we continue to grow high-quality jobs and beautiful and safe neighborhoods in a way that will provide for optimum standards of living.” “Maricopa County is the 4th largest county in the nation and is growing every day. As your County Supervisor I will work to ensure we continue to grow high-quality jobs and beautiful and safe neighborhoods in a way that will provide for optimum standards of living.” [Debbie Lesko’s Agenda for a Strong & Safe Maricopa County, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

Lesko: “As your County Supervisor my emphasis will be on using your taxpayer dollars wisely to maintain and improve roads.” “Taxpayers want high-quality roads that are maintained for ease of travel. As your County Supervisor my emphasis will be on using your taxpayer dollars wisely to maintain and improve roads.” [Debbie Lesko’s Agenda for a Strong & Safe Maricopa County, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

Lesko co-sponsored the 2023 Affordable HOMES Act. “Adding additional burdensome regulations onto the factory-built housing industry could have disastrous effects on the cost of one of the last affordable housing options. That’s why I’m pleased to be joining @RepLarryBucshon in cosponsoring the Affordable HOMES Act.” [Twitter, [11/20/23](#)]

- **The Affordable HOMES Act sought to make the Department of Energy’s “Energy Conservation Standards for Manufactured Housing” unenforceable.** “The Affordable HOMES Act would: Repeal Section 413 of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007 and would ensure that the Department of Energy’s (DOE) final rule on Energy Conservation Standards for Manufactured Housing will have no force or effect.” [Dr. Bucshon Advances Legislation Promoting Reliable, Affordable Approaches to Clean Energy, [10/25/23](#)]

2018: Lesko supported Trump’s 2017 Tax Cuts and wanted constitutional amendment to require a “balanced budget.” “Lesko said she would have voted for President Donald Trump's tax cuts, saying the legislation has helped Arizona businesses give their employees bonuses. She wants to make permanent the tax cuts for individuals that currently are set to expire within 10 years. Without acknowledging the tax cuts as a source of the nation's growing debt, Lesko also said she wants a constitutional amendment requiring balanced budgets.” [Arizona Central, [4/12/18](#)]

Education

2023: Lesko proposed an amendment to the U.S. Constitution which would affirm “Parental Rights” over their children’s public educations. “Today, U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Lesko (AZ-08) introduced an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to guarantee the fundamental right of parents to make the best educational decisions for their children is constitutionally protected. ‘The Biden Administration’s Department of Justice has worked to target parents and prevent them from having a say in what their children are being taught in the classroom,’ said Congresswoman Lesko. ‘This is unacceptable. That is why I am pleased to once again introduce this constitutional amendment to protect and affirm parents’ fundamental right to be involved in their kids’ education and choose the best educational option for their families.’ ‘The family unit and its ability to function independently of the government is vital for the health of our country,’ said Penny Nance, CEO and President of Concerned Women for America. ‘The Parental Rights Amendment is a crucial piece of legislation in a country whose government often forgets parents are responsible for their children’s upbringing, not the government. This bill goes on to protect the rights of parents to choose the best education for their children to flourish. Rep. Lesko’s much needed legislation will protect fundamental parental rights.’” [Lesko Reintroduces Constitutional Amendment to Protect Parental Rights in Education, [3/1/23](#)]

2021: Lesko introduced H.R. 557 to the 117th Congress, which sought to remove the authority of the Department of Education over states on addressing failing public schools. “This bill creates a framework under which states may receive federal elementary and secondary education funds on a consolidated basis and use such funds for any educational purpose permitted by state law. Specifically, the bill permits each state to submit to the Department of Education a state management decision that, among other requirements, describes how the state will address persistently failing public schools. The bill defines state management decision as a state decision to assume full management responsibility for the expenditure of federal funds to advance the educational policy of the state. The duration of a state management decision shall be between 5 and 10 years. Additionally, each state that operates under a state management decision must establish an accountability system that focuses on the academic achievement of students and includes a system for evaluating the academic achievement and progress of students.” [H.R.557 - Make Education Local Act of 2021, [1/28/21](#)]

Lesko was an advocate for private and charter schools. “Lesko, 59, who spent nine years in the Arizona Legislature, would largely continue the conservative priorities favored by Franks and President Trump. She is an advocate for further empowering private schools and charter schools and promises to push for stepped-up border security.” [Arizona Central, [4/9/18](#)]

Elections

2021: Lesko voted to reject the electors from Arizona, and signed an amicus brief in support of overturning the 2020 election results in Texas v. Pennsylvania. “Today, U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Lesko (AZ-08) released the following statement after her vote to agree with the objection to electors from the state of Arizona: ‘After much deliberation and consultation with constitutional attorneys, I decided to agree with the objection to Arizona’s electors. Similar to the arguments made in the amicus brief I signed onto in Texas v. Pennsylvania, et al., Arizona violated state law, and thus the United States Constitution, as detailed in the opinion from the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. In line with upholding my oath to follow the U.S. Constitution, I voted to agree with the objection to Arizona’s electors. The events today at the U.S. Capitol were tragic and disturbing. Civil discourse and passionate debate have a place in our democracy, but violence and anarchy are never the answer. Please join me in praying for our nation.’” [Lesko Stands Up for Constitution; Agrees With Objection to Arizona Electors, [1/6/21](#)]

2022: Lesko “showed support at the Arizona Legislature for a movie doubling down on false claims of a stolen election.” “These days, Lesko helps recruit conservative women across the country to run for Congress. In 2021, she was among the House Republicans who voted to set aside the election results in Arizona. She recently showed support at the Arizona Legislature for a movie doubling down on false claims of a stolen election.” [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#); Press Release, Office of Diana Harshbarger, [7/13/22](#)]

2023: Lesko cosponsored H.R. 8223 – a proposed amendment to the National Voter Registration Act, which would require voters to provide proof of citizenship before voting in a given election. [Bill Track 50, Accessed: [5/2/24](#)]

2024: Lesko said “election integrity is the cornerstone of our democracy,” and said she would work to listen to voter concerns and for a “fair” and “transparent” election process as supervisor. “Election Integrity is the cornerstone of our democracy. That is why as County Supervisor I pledge to listen to all voter concerns and work to ensure we have a smooth, fair, open, and transparent election process. As your U.S. Congresswoman and AZ State Legislator, I sponsored and voted for legislation and supported ballot measures that require voter ID, require proof of citizenship, prohibit non-citizens from voting, and end ballot harvesting. In Congress I voted against legislation that would have allowed states to mail ballots to non-citizens and would have required states to accept ballot harvesting.” [Debbie Lesko’s Agenda for a Strong & Safe Maricopa County, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

Second Amendment

The NRA praised Lesko for “standing strong for Second Amendment rights” and having “a perfect NRA voting record.” “Dear Arizona NRA Member: Please contact your U.S. Representative Debbie Lesko and thank her for standing strong for Second Amendment rights and law-abiding gun owners. Representative Lesko has a perfect NRA voting record and continues to oppose Nancy Pelosi and Michael Bloomberg’s gun control agenda. She has refused to yield to the relentless attacks on our constitutional freedoms from the anti-gun liberals in Congress and many in the media. Again, please contact Representative Lesko here or at (202) 225-4576 and thank her for her unwavering support of our right to self-defense and the Second Amendment.” [NRA-ILA – Debbie Lesko, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

2021: Lesko accused democrats of being “very radical” opponents of the Second Amendment, who did not “trust individual Americans with their freedom.” “A1F: As the Biden administration pushes its gun-control policies, what is it like to be a defender of the U.S. Bill of Rights within this Congress? Rep. Lesko: The Democrats are very radical right now, which is totally opposite of what President Joe Biden (D) said he was going to do. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) controls the agenda in Congress and, with her approval, Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) is pushing all kinds of gun-control bills. They don’t trust individual Americans with their freedom; instead, they want to use the federal government to control people by diminishing our freedom. This is why, in 2022, we need to make sure we support candidates who support the Second Amendment, so all of these radical gun-control bills will be stopped in their tracks. To do so, it’s critical to learn where candidates stand on key issues that are important to you. Here in Congress, it is all about the math. If more politicians who want to pass gun-control laws are elected, then there are going to be more infringements on this basic right passed. It’s that simple.” [America’s 1st Freedom: Shooting Straight with Rep. Debbie Lesko, [7/19/21](#)]

2018: Lesko suggested she supported measures to temporarily restrict gun access for persons with documented histories of instability, but asserted: “I think there's enough laws. The laws need to be enforced.” “Lesko said she supports limited measures to temporarily restrict access to guns by those with documented histories of instability, but doesn't want wholesale changes to gun laws. ‘I think there's enough laws. The laws need to be enforced,’ she said. ‘The people that follow the laws are law-abiding people. There's probably a sticker in here that says you can't bring in guns, right? But if someone really wanted to kill somebody here, if they are willing to break that law, do you really think they're going to look at the window and say, 'Oh, I can't break that law?’” [Arizona Central, [4/12/18](#)]

Abortion

2024: Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America Rate Lesko with an A+ for standing up “against the ever-growing pro-abortion agenda of the Biden-Harris administration and the radical bureaucrats who are actively working to expand abortion access.” [SBA Pro-Life America – Debbie Lesko, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

2023: Lesko, on co-sponsoring Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act: “I simply do not understand why 210 of my Democrat colleagues voted against this bill. Why would anyone want a baby to be left for dead that was born alive?” “Today, U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Lesko (AZ-08) released the following statement on the U.S. House of Representatives’ passage of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act: ‘I was proud to cosponsor and vote for the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which provides lifesaving care to babies who survive attempted abortions. With the passage of this bill, House Republicans have proven that we care about the lives of innocent children. I simply do not understand why 210 of my Democrat colleagues voted against this bill. Why would anyone want a baby to be left for dead that was born alive?’” [Lesko Votes To Protect Babies Born Alive From Attempted Abortions, [1/11/23](#)]

2022: Lesko supported the overturning of Roe v. Wade in the Supreme Court’s Dobbs decisions. (Image) [Twitter, [6/24/22](#)]

2014: Lesko backed AZ HB 2284, which proposed unannounced health inspections at abortion clinics. “Ignoring a virtually certain lawsuit, the state House voted Thursday to let health officials conduct unannounced inspections at abortion clinics. Rep. Debbie Lesko, R-Peoria, said abortion clinics are the only health facilities in the state where the Department of Health Services needs either permission or a warrant. She said there is no legitimate reason for that exception...None of that, however, swayed supporters of HB 2284 who gave preliminary approval on a voice vote. A roll-call vote next week will send it to the Senate, and eventually the governor.” [Arizona Daily Star, [2/28/24](#)]

2012: Lesko sponsored AZ HB 2625, which proposed religiously exempting employers from providing contraceptive coverage to their employees. “Arizona employers will not be able to deny contraceptive coverage to their workers because of their religious beliefs. Backers of a proposal giving employers that option admitted Thursday they have not been able to secure the necessary Senate votes for HB 2625 as it was approved by the House. And time is running out, with lawmakers hoping to wrap up their session within weeks...The measure being pushed by Rep. Debbie Lesko, R-Glendale, would have allowed any company to claim a religious exemption. She said there is no reason an employer should have to fund something totally at odds with his or her own beliefs. Lesko did add language that said a worker who needs the hormones found in contraceptives for some purpose other than preventing pregnancy could purchase it with her own money and then seek reimbursement from the insurance company.” [Arizona Daily Star, [4/16/12](#)]

Trump

2023: Lesko criticized Democrats for harassing Trump after Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg arraigned him in New York’s hush money case. “Today, U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Lesko (AZ-08) released the following statement on the arraignment of President Donald J. Trump: ‘It is a sad day for our nation. Democrats will stop at nothing to go after President Trump. This case is weak and yet another political witch hunt to unjustly attack him. This is an egregious abuse of power from liberal New York District Attorney Alvin Bragg, who campaigned on going after President Trump. Bragg has brought trumped-up charges that baselessly claim there was intent to commit another crime without naming that crime to turn these charges into felonies. The Federal Election Commission and federal prosecutors at the Department of Justice already decided not to pursue this case. This is a sham indictment meant to score political points and weaponize our judicial system to help Democrats win another election.’” [Lesko Statement on the Arraignment of President Donald J. Trump, [4/4/23](#)]

2022: Trump endorsed Lesko as a “conservative warrior for the people of Arizona” in her reelection bid. “Former President Donald Trump gave his influential endorsement Tuesday to U.S. Rep. Debbie Lesko, an Arizona Republican who was a staunch defender of Trump during his impeachment proceedings. Trump

remains singularly popular among the Republican base, and his endorsement carries significant weight in GOP primaries. However, Lesko does not face a serious challenger in the Republican primary, and the new boundaries for her West Valley-based district are strongly favorable to the GOP. In a statement, Trump called Lesko a ‘Conservative Warrior for the people of Arizona’ and a strong supporter of his agenda.” [Associated Press, [3/15/22](#)]

2020: Lesko was part of Trump’s congressional defense team for his impeachment trial. “These days, Lesko helps recruit conservative women across the country to run for Congress. In 2021, she was among the House Republicans who voted to set aside the election results in Arizona. She recently showed support at the Arizona Legislature for a movie doubling down on false claims of a stolen election. Her growing national profile owes in part to former President Donald Trump making her part of his congressional defense team during his first impeachment trial. Last year, at least one of her GOP colleagues suggested to reporters that Lesko could be considered for the party’s No. 3 position after Republicans deposed Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., who had become a prominent Trump critic.” [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#)]

- **2021: Lesko’s colleague said she “could be considered for the party’s No. 3 position after Republicans deposed Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., who had become a prominent Trump critic.”** “These days, Lesko helps recruit conservative women across the country to run for Congress. In 2021, she was among the House Republicans who voted to set aside the election results in Arizona. She recently showed support at the Arizona Legislature for a movie doubling down on false claims of a stolen election. Her growing national profile owes in part to former President Donald Trump making her part of his congressional defense team during his first impeachment trial. Last year, at least one of her GOP colleagues suggested to reporters that Lesko could be considered for the party’s No. 3 position after Republicans deposed Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., who had become a prominent Trump critic.” [Arizona Central, [6/8/22](#)]

Boards & Commissions

Lesko was a member of the NRA. [Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

2005 – 2008: Lesko was an Arizona Federation of Taxpayers Board Member. [Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

While in the AZ legislature, Lesko served on the Faith House Domestic Violence Shelter Advisory Council. [Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

While in the AZ legislature, Lesko served on the Arizona Peace Officers Memorial Board. [Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

While in the AZ legislature, Lesko was an Ironwood High School Booster Club Member. [Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

While in the AZ legislature, Lesko served on the Desert Valley Elementary School Site Council. [Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

While in the AZ legislature, Lesko was an Arrowhead Republican Women’s Club Member. [Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

- **Lesko once served as the first vice president of the Arrowhead Republican Women’s Club.** [Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

While in the AZ legislature, Lesko served on the Community Engagement Response Team with the Glendale City Fire Department. [Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

While in the AZ legislature, Lesko was an elected officer of the Arizona State GOP and Maricopa County GOP. [Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

- **Lesko served as Voter Registration Chair for the Maricopa County GOP.** [Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

While in the AZ legislature, Lesko was an AZ Citizens Defense League member. [Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

While in the AZ legislature, Lesko served on the 2025 City of Glendale Master Plan Committee. [Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

While in the AZ legislature, Lesko served as a hearing officer for the North Valley Justice Court. [Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

While in the AZ legislature, Lesko served as the Legislative District 9 GOP Chair. [Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

While in the AZ legislature, Lesko served as Treasurer of the Peoria Unified School District Community Committee. [Arizona Legislature – Legislator 1794, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

BOB BRANCH

Twitter: [@bobbbranch](#)

Instagram: *Unable to locate.*

Facebook: [Bob Branch for Maricopa Board of Supervisors, District 4](#)

LinkedIn: [Dr. Robert Branch](#) and [Bob Branch](#)

Background & Philosophy

2024: Branch: Branch: “The primary goal [of the Board of Supervisors] is to handle issues of election integrity. So, you’ve got to get somebody in there who believes there is an election integrity issue.” [GunFreedomRadio EP439 Leaders Versus Legislators with Dr. Bob Branch, [4/15/24](#)]

2024: Branch submitted 2,882 signatures in his official filing for Maricopa 4 Supervisor. [2024 Maricopa County Primary Election Candidates, [4/20/24](#)]

2024: Sheriff Joe Arpaio endorsed Branch for Maricopa County Supervisor. [Facebook – Joe Arpaio, [2/21/24](#)]

2024: Branch participated in an America First Meet & Greet with other local, conservative candidates. [Facebook, [4/20/24](#)]

Branch was a professor at Grand Canyon University who intended to run for Arizona Senate before focusing his campaign on the Maricopa 4 Supervisor seat. “Bob Branch is a professor at Grand Canyon University. He previously ran for superintendent of public instruction and told The Republic that he intended to

run for a seat in the Arizona Senate before swapping to a campaign for county supervisor. He also currently serves on the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.” [Arizona Republic, [2/15/24](#)]

Branch qualified himself as a “Christian Conservative College Professor.” “Dr. Bob Branch is unique. How unique? He is a ‘Christian Conservative College Professor.’ Let that sink in for just one minute, a ‘Christian Conservative College Professor.’” [Dr. Bob Branch – About, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

Branch called it “unfortunate” that other republicans dropped out of the Maricopa 4 primary because of Lesko’s bid, but said he would not go anywhere because “people need a choice.” “Branch, a professor at Grand Canyon University, said he was disappointed so many candidates chose to drop out of the race in Lesko's wake. ‘It's unfortunate that the other people saw her and ran,’ he said. ‘But I'm not going anywhere. People need a choice.’” [Arizona Central, [3/2/24](#)]

- **Branch: “Debbie is a legislator, and that's good...I'm a leader and I know how to govern. So, there's two different sets of skills there.”** “He also has long represented District 4 on the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. He's hoping his county bona fides and in-state experience will help distinguish him from Lesko. ‘Debbie is a legislator, and that's good,’ Branch said. ‘I'm a leader and I know how to govern. So, there's two different sets of skills there.’” [Arizona Central, [3/2/24](#)]

Branch celebrated his status as a professor at both of the top “Christian Universities in the World.” “Dr. Branch is ‘The Educator of Educators,’ teaching leadership and management skills to the doctoral level to those who want to become academic administrators and teachers. Dr. Branch teaches the leadership skills, styles and best practices needed to run large organizations and school systems, and in his 21 years teaching in education, Dr. Branch has taught many of our school superintendents and thousands of our teachers. Dr. Branch taught at the #1 and #2 Christian Universities in the World (Grand Canyon University and Liberty University). Dr. Branch not only earned an undergraduate degree, but he has also designed undergraduate programs. Dr. Branch not only earned a graduate degree, but he has designed graduate programs; and Dr. Branch not only earned a doctoral degree, but has designed doctoral programs.” [Dr. Bob Branch – About, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

1979 – 1983: Branch served in the U.S. Air Force (Enlisted). [LinkedIn – Dr. Robert Branch, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]

- **Branch worked in cryptographics for the Air Force, from which point he decided to pursue a career in semiconductor technology.** “Dr. Branch started in the ‘top secret’ career field of cryptographics where he repaired and maintained cryptographic computers for the United States Air Force. After being honorably discharged from the Air Force, Dr. Branch went to work in the ‘semiconductor’ industry. Designing memory chips, then into sales and marketing, Dr. Branch rose through the ranks quickly; from corporate management, to corporate leadership, and eventually to corporate ownership with his own database development firm.” [Dr. Bob Branch – About, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

1984: Branch graduated with an Associate’s degree from Spokane Falls Community College. [LinkedIn – Dr. Robert Branch, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]

1985: Branch graduated with a B.S. in Computer Technology from Eastern Washington University. [LinkedIn – Dr. Robert Branch, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]

1990: Branch worked as a Sales Engineer at Fairchild Semiconductors. [LinkedIn – Dr. Robert Branch, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]

1990 – 1994: Branch served as the Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Silicon Mt. Design. [LinkedIn – Dr. Robert Branch, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]

1994 – 1998: Branch worked as a Sales Manager for Honeywell’s Solid State Electronic Devices. [LinkedIn – Dr. Robert Branch, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]

1999 – 2004: Branch founded and served as CEO for The Next Inevitable Step Inc., and e-commerce business. [LinkedIn – Dr. Robert Branch, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]

2001: Branch graduated with an M.S. in Information Systems Engineering from Western International University. [LinkedIn – Dr. Robert Branch, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]

2004 – 2005: Branch was Campus Director for CollegeAmerica. [LinkedIn – Dr. Robert Branch, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]

2006 – 2007: Branch was Chairman for the Northcentral University School of Business and Technology. [LinkedIn – Dr. Robert Branch, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]

2007: Branch received his Ph.D. in Organizational Management from Capella University. [LinkedIn – Dr. Robert Branch, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]

2008 – Present: Branch was an “academic professor” at Liberty University. [LinkedIn – Dr. Robert Branch, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]

2008 – Present: Branch was an “academic professor” at Grand Canyon University. [LinkedIn – Dr. Robert Branch, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]

2012 – Present: Branch served on the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission. [LinkedIn – Bob Branch, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]

- **2015: Branch was elected vice chairman of the board.** [LinkedIn – Bob Branch, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]
- **2019 – Present: Branch served as chairman of the board.** [LinkedIn – Bob Branch, Accessed: [4/24/24](#)]

2018: Branch ran for Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction, but lost by less than 250 votes in the GOP primary for the seat – 124,623 votes to Frank Riggs’ 124,872. [State of Arizona Official Canvass – 2018 Primary Election, [9/10/18](#)]

On The Issues

Criminal Justice

2024: Branch called Sherriff Joe Arpaio an “American icon” and “trusted friend and confidant,” who worked to secure the U.S. Border and oppose cartels. [Facebook – Joe Arpaio, [2/21/24](#)]

Development & Taxes

2019: Branch supported tariffs on Mexico. “Tariffs are not self-imposed taxes, so do not believe what the media is telling you. The only reason the Republicans in the House and Senate care about tariffs on Mexico is because those tariffs will hurt their main campaign donors. They want to scare you into believing that the sky is falling, but it is not, at least not on the United States. The fact is, the tariffs would destroy Mexico, so Mexico is

running to the bargaining table. Tell the Republicans in the House and Senate to shut up and get on board with President Trump. I stand with President Trump.” [Twitter, [6/15/19](#)]

Elections

Branch: “Until the 2020 election, nobody even cared about the Board of Supervisors. Now everybody around the world knows about the Board of Supervisors because of our election integrity issues.”

[GunFreedomRadio EP439 Leaders Versus Legislators with Dr. Bob Branch, [4/15/24](#)]

Branch: “The Maricopa Board of Supervisors put overseers – after the 2018 county elections – inside the County Recorder’s office. So it’s kind of like a marriage now.” “The Maricopa Board of Supervisors, they control the budgets of all departments...the Maricopa Board of Supervisors put overseers – after the 2018 county elections – inside the County Recorder’s office. So it’s kind of like a marriage now, where the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors actually has control, on day, of elections...they’re a lot of Maricopa Board people working in there.” [GunFreedomRadio EP439 Leaders Versus Legislators with Dr. Bob Branch, [4/15/24](#)]

Branch: “This [Supervisors seat] is vacant, and we need new leadership down there. And this leadership has to understand that there is an election integrity issue, and they have to address it.” [GunFreedomRadio EP439 Leaders Versus Legislators with Dr. Bob Branch, [4/15/24](#)]

Branch: “This county has about 70 percent of the people living in the state. So, if you fix election integrity issues for the county, you fix them for the state, and then you’re doing that for the nation.” “When I get elected, my number one priority is restoring election integrity to this county...this county has about 70 percent of the people living in the state. So if you fix election integrity issues for the county, you fix them for the state, and then you’re doing that for the nation.” [GunFreedomRadio EP439 Leaders Versus Legislators with Dr. Bob Branch, [4/15/24](#)]

- **Branch: “Whether you perceive there’s an issue, or there is an issue, somebody’s got to go in and fix that. Now, I firmly believe there is an issue.”** [GunFreedomRadio EP439 Leaders Versus Legislators with Dr. Bob Branch, [4/15/24](#)]

Branch: “The left always talks about disenfranchising people. Well, that’s what they’re doing here in Maricopa County, except they’re doing it to the right – no one cares! And – just one point of contention to your [remarks] – hell yeah, I want Trump to win.” [GunFreedomRadio EP439 Leaders Versus Legislators with Dr. Bob Branch, [4/15/24](#)]

Branch: “The board is only as strong as its strongest member...it is so important to elect the right person – the right leader – that can lead that board. Right?” [GunFreedomRadio EP439 Leaders Versus Legislators with Dr. Bob Branch, [4/15/24](#)]

Branch solicited donations for his Supervisors campaign by asking, “Who’s ready to bring back election integrity in Maricopa County by electing new leaders to the Board of Supervisors?” “Who’s ready to bring back election integrity in Maricopa County by electing new leaders to the Board of Supervisors? I’m stepping up as your candidate, and I need your backing. Whether you’re in Arizona or anywhere in the US, your support matters! Please consider contributing to my campaign, whether it’s \$5, \$10, \$100, or even \$6650. Every dollar counts. Spread the word to your friends and let’s work together to restore trust and accountability in our county!” [LinkedIn – Bob Branch, Accessed: [4/25/24](#)]

Education

2019: Branch accused Arizona’s “Socialist Democrat” superintendent of Pursuing “indoctrination” over “education.” “Arizona Republicans need to take a stand on education, and we need to do it NOW. The

Socialist Democrat won the top seat in education for The State of Arizona, and just as I predicted, indoctrination, not education, is the agenda of the new Superintendent of Public Instruction. Since taking office, Superintendent Hoffman has advanced her anti-Christian, pro-Planned Parenthood, pro-Comprehensive Sexuality Education agenda. The worst part, Republican leadership has been letting her get away with it.” [Facebook – Robert Branch, [6/21/19](#)]

2019: Branch opposed “comprehensive sexuality education.” [Dr. Bob Ranch – Blog, [8/13/19](#)]

2018: Branch “is skeptical that schools need additional funding sources, though he said that could change if a judge rules that Proposition 123 funding must be repaid.” [Arizona Central, [7/29/18](#)]

Second Amendment

2024: Branch said he ordered a Gatling Gun because he learned prisoners were earning pandemic stimulus checks. [GunFreedomRadio EP439 Leaders Versus Legislators with Dr. Bob Branch, [4/15/24](#)]

2013: Branch called GOP support for gun control “disgusting.” “In what universe do two Republican Senators from the State of Arizona sponsor amnesty, a path to citizenship, and gun control; disgusting.” [Twitter, [4/12/13](#)]

Abortion

2019: Branch suggested he opposed abortion rights in criticizing pro-parenthood policies. “Arizona Republicans need to take a stand on education, and we need to do it NOW. The Socialist Democrat won the top seat in education for The State of Arizona, and just as I predicted, indoctrination, not education, is the agenda of the new Superintendent of Public Instruction. Since taking office, Superintendent Hoffman has advanced her anti-Christian, pro-Planned Parenthood, pro-Comprehensive Sexuality Education agenda. The worst part, Republican leadership has been letting her get away with it.” [Facebook – Robert Branch, [6/21/19](#)]

Trump

2024: Branch promoted his campaign with a t-shirt depicting a Punisher skull with Trump’s hairdo. [Facebook – Bob Branch for Maricopa County Supervisor District 4, [4/23/24](#)]

2024: Sheriff Joe Arpaio endorsed Branch as a “huge Trump supporter.” [Facebook – Joe Arpaio, [2/21/24](#)]

2019: Branch: “I will not back any candidate that does not back President Trump 100%. When I ask a candidate if they support President Trump and they respond by saying, ‘I like Trump, but....’ They are not my candidate.” [Twitter, [11/17/19](#)]

2019: Branch: “President Trump, greatest President ever?” [Twitter, [6/10/19](#)]

2018: Branch campaigned for Arizona Superintendent with a pin that read “Trump Supporters Elect Dr. Bob Branch.” “What the race has already proved is that it may be impossible to stand up to Trump in any meaningful way and remain in good standing with the GOP. ‘He has a lot of diehard fans,’ says Bob Branch, a candidate for state superintendent who is wearing a button that reads, TRUMP SUPPORTERS ELECT DR. BOB BRANCH. ‘You can try to run without supporting him, but you’re not going to do well.’” [TIME, [8/16/18](#)]

- **2018: Branch admitted GOP candidates campaigning without expressly supporting Trump were “not going to do well” due to his number of “diehard fans.”** “What the race has already proved is that it may be impossible to stand up to Trump in any meaningful way and remain in good standing with the

GOP. ‘He has a lot of diehard fans,’ says Bob Branch, a candidate for state superintendent who is wearing a button that reads, TRUMP SUPPORTERS ELECT DR. BOB BRANCH. ‘You can try to run without supporting him, but you’re not going to do well.’” [TIME, [8/16/18](#)]

2018: Branch shared a photo of himself with Donald and Melania Trump cutouts, and said “I stand with President Trump” – emphasizing “the sentiment is real” despite the cutouts. [Bob Branch for Maricopa County Supervisor District 4, [8/21/18](#)]