

Maricopa County Supervisors District 5

This document analyzes the race for Maricopa Board of Supervisors in District 5. The race features Democratic incumbent Steve Gallardo and “[relatively new](#)” GOP political activist Ann Niemann. Gallardo originally won his seat in 2014, and won uncontested reelections in 2016 and 2020. Gallardo is also a former state legislator who worked for the county elections department. Gallardo currently serves as the only Democratic member of the Board of Supervisors. Ann Niemann has been a local GOP activist, once running and [finishing last](#) in a race for Arizona GOP chair. Niemann has been [associated](#) with The America Project, which was founded by election denier and J6 rioter Patrick Byrne, and has placed election integrity as a central tenet of her 2024 campaign. According to the most recent campaign finance reports filed in the race, Gallardo has over \$56,000 cash on hand compared to Niemann’s \$386.

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

Key findings:

District 5 has been a secure Democratic seat for decades. A Democrat has represented district 5 on the Board of Supervisors since at least [2004](#), the earliest year for which Maricopa County has retained online board of supervisors election records. Additionally, the state legislative house districts overlapping with District 5 have also been held safely by Democrats. Originally appointed to his position, Gallardo won his first election to the Board of Supervisors in 2014 with 68-percent of the vote. Gallardo ran unopposed in both 2016 and 2020. He’s currently the only Democrat on the Board of Supervisors. According to an [article in the Arizona Republic](#), the district “encompasses downtown and south Phoenix, then stretches west through Avondale, Tolleson, Goodyear, Buckeye and south past Gila Bend. It is the county’s most racially diverse district and is considered the only safely Democratic seat on the board.”

An election denier, Niemann is a Republican activist who once ran to lead the state GOP. Press reports have described Niemann as “relatively new to the state’s political activist scene” when she ran to lead the Arizona GOP in 2022; she lost the election with the lowest share of votes at 4-percent. Niemann had otherwise been an editor for a Celtic-heritage magazine, Desert Shamrock, while working in upper management for a wall construction and design company, and before that had directed an adoption agency focused on Chinese and Russian orphans. Niemann later worked as the director of “Arizona for Election Transparency,” a group linked to the America Project, which was launched by several prominent election deniers a few months after January 6th to spend millions on election denial campaigns. Niemann also founded PC Toolbox USA, an elections transparency group which she had yet to activate as of May 2024, and campaigned for the faith-based GOTV group “VOTE YOUR VALUES.” Niemann was the first vice-chair for the District 11 Arizona GOP in 2024, and has campaigned for the Board of Supervisors on a promise of securing election integrity in Maricopa County.

Candidates

Steve Michael Gallardo – Democratic Party

Ann Niemann - Republican Party

Campaign Finance

Candidate	Total Raised	Total Expenditures	Cash on Hand
Gallardo	\$29,301	\$7,291	\$56,552
Niemann	\$2,309	\$1,923	\$386

[Maricopa County Recorder, Accessed: 4/30/24]

Ann Niemann

Twitter: [@DesertShamrock](#)

Instagram: Unfound

Facebook: [Ann Niemann](#)

LinkedIn: [Ann Niemann](#) (1) and [Ann Niemann](#) (outdated)

Background & Philosophy

2021: Arizona Central article called Niemann “relatively new to the state's political activist scene” in her bid for state GOP chair. “As Arizona Republicans prepare to decide who will lead the party into the 2022 midterm elections, the state GOP is stinging from high-profile election losses, led by conspiracy-mongers and in an uneasy relationship with its traditionally business friendly base... Ward faces challenges from three relative political unknowns for the unpaid position: Bob Lettieri, the state GOP treasurer; Sergio Arellano, a businessman who splits his time between Sahuarita and Laveen; and Ann Niemann, who is relatively new to the state's political activist scene.” [Arizona Central, [1/22/21](#)]

- **2021: Niemann ran for chair of the Arizona GOP, but placed last in the election with only 4-percent of the vote.** “The 2021 statutory meeting of the Arizona Republican Party would not use electronic ballots at all. It would use paper ballots, run through machine tabulators on loan from rural Gila County. Under the bylaws of the party, a candidate needed to win with a majority of the vote. After the first round of voting, Ward had 46% of the vote. Arellano had 26%, and a third candidate, Bob Lettieri, had 24%. A fourth candidate, Ann Niemann, garnered 4%. Ward and Arellano would advance to a runoff.” [Arizona Central, [11/2/22](#)]

2024: Niemann formally filed for the Supervisors election with 696 signatures. [Maricopa County 2024 Primary Election Candidates, [4/20/24](#)]

2024: Niemann claimed she was a resident of Arizona for 21 years, who had a “blended family of 10 children and 28 children.” “A resident of South Mountain and 21 years in Arizona, married, with blended family of 10 children and 28 grandchildren. Faith as an Evangelical Christian forges the foundation for valuing family and American freedoms. MBA in International Management from Thunderbird School of Global Management, Glendale, AZ. Proven track record in both corporate and small business operations at executive levels, encompassing both for-profit and nonprofit sectors.” [VoteNiemann.com – About, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

2024: Niemann: “Faith as an Evangelical Christian forges the foundation for valuing family and American freedoms.” “A resident of South Mountain and 21 years in Arizona, married, with blended family of 10 children and 28 grandchildren. Faith as an Evangelical Christian forges the foundation for valuing family and American freedoms. MBA in International Management from Thunderbird School of Global Management, Glendale, AZ. Proven track record in both corporate and small business operations at executive levels, encompassing both for-profit and nonprofit sectors.” [VoteNiemann.com – About, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

2024: Niemann called herself a “champion for truth and integrity” who sought to lead “with a commitment to excellence and sound decision-making.” [VoteNiemann.com, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

2024: Niemann campaigned on “defending against overreach,” by which she was “advocating for limited government” and “preserving personal liberties.” [VoteNiemann.com, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

2024: Niemann listed herself as Director of Arizona for Election Transparency. [VoteNiemann.com – About, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

- **The organization lists itself as supported by The America Project.** [libertyshepherd.com, Accessed: [5/1/24](#)]
- **The America Project “is an America First non-profit organization defending rights and freedoms, election victory, and border security to save America.”** [America Project – About, Accessed: [5/1/24](#)]
 - **America Project founder Patrick Byrne participated in the J6 insurrection.** “Patrick Byrne, once a standout figure on Wall Street, has emerged as a significant figure in discussions on election integrity. His involvement in the January 6th, 2021 rallies, his bold offers to face non-violent charges, and his dedication to various charitable causes have drawn considerable attention.” [America Project, Accessed: [5/1/24](#)]
- **2022: Niemann was the director of logistics for the group’s “Operation Eagle’s Wings,” which sought to promote conservative policies throughout the country – to include on election issues.** Operation Eagle’s Wings, Director Of Logistics: Operation Eagle’s Wings, Director of Logistics, (2022) working with AZ, FL, GA, IL, MI, PA, TX, VA, and WI to promote conservative policies and platform issues. Building on the successes of Virginia, worked directly with the originators of “The Virginia Model,” in collaboration to roll out detailed, comprehensive strategies for nonpartisan free, fair, and transparent elections. [Facebook – Ann Nieman, Accessed: [4/30/24](#); VoteNiemann.com – About, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

2024: Niemann listed herself as a Maricopa County Certified Deputy Registrar. [VoteNiemann.com – About, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

2024: Niemann listed herself as a founder of and voting engagement trainer at PC Toolbox USA. [VoteNiemann.com – About, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

- **The site listed for PC Toolbox USA is not an owned domain.** [pctoolboxusa.com/lander, Accessed: [5/1/24](#); VoteNiemann.com – About, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

2024: Niemann listed herself as founder and Arizona coordinator for VOTE YOUR VALUES – a voter registration organization for “people of faith.” [VoteNiemann.com – About, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

2024: Niemann was first vice-chair and state committee member for the Arizona Legislative District 11 GOP. [VoteNiemann.com – About, Accessed: [4/30/24](#); South Mountain GOP – LD11 Executive Board, Accessed: [5/1/24](#)]

2020 – Present: Niemann was an executive editor with Epic Author Publishing – a self-help book writing company. [LinkedIn – Ann Niemann, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

2013 – Present: Niemann was publisher and editor-in-chief of The Desert Shamrock – An Arizona Celtic Community magazine owned by Niemann Publishing Inc. [LinkedIn – Ann Niemann, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

2015 – 2018: Niemann was director of communications for HercuTech Inc. – an exterior wall system sales company. [LinkedIn – Ann Niemann, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

2012 – 2013: Niemann was interim executive vice president of HercuTech Inc. [LinkedIn – Ann Niemann, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

2011 – 2012: Niemann was managing editor of The Desert Shamrock. [LinkedIn – Ann Niemann, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

2010 – 2012: Niemann was a project manager with HercuWall Inc. [LinkedIn – Ann Niemann, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

1992 – 2002: Niemann served as the founder and executive director of Gift of Love Adoptions, which worked primarily on adoptions from China and Russia. [LinkedIn – Ann Niemann, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

1978: Niemann received an MBA in International Management from Thunderbird School of Global Management. [LinkedIn – Ann Niemann, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

1977: Niemann received a BA in International Relations from Drake University. [LinkedIn – Ann Niemann, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

On The Issues

Development & Taxes

2024: Niemann was focused on “protecting our families and businesses,” especially for “vigilantly guarding parents & children, [with] policies for the economy to thrive.” [VoteNiemann.com, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

Elections

2024: Niemann claimed she was “focused on fair and transparent elections” to ensure Arizonans could help “save our Republic.” [VoteNiemann.com, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

2024: Niemann was “director of Arizona for Election Transparency, a group linked to The America Project and Patrick Byrne, the founder of Overstock.com and a prominent voting conspiracist.” “Ann Niemann, District 5: She is the director of Arizona for Election Transparency, a group linked to The America Project and Patrick Byrne, the founder of Overstock.com and a prominent voting conspiracist. Niemann also previously ran an international adoption agency. She lives in south Phoenix and is running as a Republican.” [Arizona Central, [4/8/24](#)]

- **Arizona for Election Transparency:** “The purpose of the project is to provide a space for organizations and individuals interested in election transparency to share information on procedures, processes and practices related to Arizona’s elections.” “Welcome to the homepage of the Arizona Election Transparency Project. The purpose of the project is to provide a space for organizations and individuals interested in election transparency to share information on procedures, processes and practices related to Arizona’s elections. Here you will find links to laws and regulations, training materials, and observer and poll watcher reports. You will also find information on organizations promoting election transparency, and ways you can become involved. So dive right in, and together, let’s make Arizona’s elections the freest, fairest, and most transparent in the nation! Click on any of the Counties on the map for more information for each one.” [LibertyShepherd.com, Accessed: [5/10/24](#)]
- **The America Project was founded by Byrne, former General Michael Flynn, and Flynn’s brother Joe.** “The America Project was formed in April 2021 by retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, his brother Joe Flynn, and millionaire Patrick Byrne, who stepped down as the CEO of online retailer Overstock.com in 2019 after his affair with an alleged Russian spy came to light. Much of the money The America Project raised in 2022 came from anonymous wealthy donors, with just five donors accounting for nearly half of the group’s income. The largest of these anonymous donors gave nearly \$2.8 million — roughly 36% of the group’s total receipts.” [Issue One, [3/10/24](#)]
- **The America Project, “launched by several prominent election deniers just a few months after the January 6th attack on our democracy,” spent at least \$7.4 million on an online election denial campaign.** “A nonprofit known as The America Project — which was launched by several prominent election deniers just a few months after the January 6th attack on our democracy — raised \$7.7 million in 2021, according to a recently filed tax return obtained by Issue One. During the same period, The America Project spent \$7.4 million, mostly advancing false claims about the 2020 elections, including paying millions of dollars to the Cyber Ninjas firm involved in the conspiracy-laden partisan review of ballots in Maricopa County, Arizona.” [Issue One, [3/10/24](#)]
- **The America Project “raised in 2022 came from anonymous wealthy donors, with just five donors accounting for nearly half of the group’s income.”** [Issue One, [3/10/24](#)]

Education

Niemann co-founded Kyrene Parent Network to oppose cuts to curricula in the Kyrene, Arizona, School District. “Kyrene Parent Network (AZ), Co-Founder: Their team presented 500 hours of research on Kyrene School District’s K-8 proposed curriculum cuts to arts, foreign language, and math. In opposition to cuts, provided analysis and cost-neutral and low-cost solutions. KSD rejected the KPN findings but their 3-year study showed KPN was correct that their matrix was flawed and would fail.” [VoteNiemann.com – About, Accessed: [5/1/24](#)]

- **The organization was active from 2006 to 2010.** [Open Corporates – Kyrene Parent Network, Accessed: [5/1/24](#)]

Trump

Niemann was one of three candidates campaigning for Arizona GOP Chair “on the contention that Ward’s staunch Trump support cost the party the presidency and both Senate seats.” “The main business of the day was deciding who would chair the state GOP: Ward, or one of her three challengers, Sergio Arellano, Bob Lettieri or Ann Niemann, all campaigning on the contention that Ward’s staunch Trump support cost the party the presidency and both Senate seats – the first time since 1948 that Democrats had pulled off such a hat

trick. The first vote was too close. A run-off the same day awarded her another term.” [Phoenix Magazine, [3/23/21](#)]

Boards and Commissions

2024: Niemann was Irish Network Arizona’s president and chair of the board of directors. [LinkedIn – Ann Niemann, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

2014 – Present: Niemann was a member of Friends of Saint Patrick Centre’s Phoenix Chapter. [LinkedIn – Ann Niemann, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

2007 – 2013: Niemann was chair of the Arizona Rose Centre, which focused on awarding scholarships to American Women with Irish ancestry. [LinkedIn – Ann Niemann, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]

Niemann (nee: Nordquist) once served as co-chair of the Polk County, Iowa, GOP. “Polk County Republicans, Co-Chair: Political engagement in Iowa includes serving as Co-Chair of Polk County Republicans and running as a Polk County Supervisor candidate, endorsed by Iowa Senator Charles Grassley. [Name: Nordquist].” [VoteNiemann.com – About, Accessed: [4/30/24](#)]