

## **GINA SWOBODA**

In 2026, former elections official and Arizona Republican Party chair Gina Swoboda announced that she would be suspending her congressional campaign and running instead for Arizona Secretary of State. Swoboda worked from 2018 to 2020 in the Arizona Secretary of State's Office, serving under both Republican Michele Reagan and Democrat Katie Hobbs. Swoboda was elected to lead the Arizona Republican Party twice, in 2024 and 2025, with Trump's endorsement. In 2020, Swoboda was the elections day director of operations in Arizona for Trump's campaign. Swoboda served as an adviser to Kari Lake's 2022 gubernatorial campaign. Additionally, she served as a policy adviser to the state Senate and House. As of 2025, Swoboda was the executive director of the Voter Reference Foundation, a subsidiary of the nonprofit Restoration Action Inc. She is originally from Queens, New York.

### *Key findings:*

**Swoboda described as a “Trump loyalist, GOP activist and sometimes election questioner”.** In March 2025, KJZZ wrote, “She's a former elections official, an activist who then ushered the state party to major wins up and down the ballot in the 2024 elections, including a decisive Trump win here. But Swoboda, a Trump loyalist, GOP activist and sometimes election questioner, has not always been a Republican. In fact, she embodies the political horse you were seeing come up so often in politics today. She grew up a Democrat and has bounced between supporting Clinton to the Tea Party, even to liking what Bernie Sanders has had to say at one point, until Trump entered the picture.”

**Swoboda was the executive director of the Voter Reference Foundation, a nonprofit that “falsely claimed to have found huge discrepancies in voting records in a number of states.”** As of 2025, Swoboda was the executive director of the Voter Reference Foundation. Voter Reference Foundation is a subsidiary of the nonprofit Restoration Action Inc – a project of billionaire Richard ‘Dick’ Uihlein that promotes election reform based on Republican concerns. According to the New York Times, the nonprofit “falsely claimed to have found huge discrepancies in voting records in a number of states.” According to Politico, Swoboda's “group has continued to spread claims about voting discrepancies and published millions of voters' names, birthdates and addresses.”

**Swoboda led a lawsuit claiming Arizona allowed ineligible voters to remain on the rolls, but later refused to join an appeal saying the legal challenge was based on unreliable 2020 census data.** In 2024, then-state GOP chair Swoboda – along with Arizona Free Enterprise Club President Scot Mussi and 2018 Republican Secretary of State candidate Steve Gaynor – sued Secretary of State Adrian Fontes and accused the state of violating the National Voter Registration Act by failing to purge ineligible voters from registration rolls. A federal judge dismissed the lawsuit, ruling there was no evidence of widespread voting by ineligible individuals even if the rolls included relatively few. In 2026, after stepping down as the leader of the state party, Swoboda declined to join the appeal of the voter registration lawsuit that alleged Arizona's voter rolls were implausibly high, describing the legal challenge as “weak” and based on unreliable 2020 census data.

**As GOP chair, Swoboda legally challenged executive orders aimed at expanding voter registration and making it easier for people to drop off ballots.** In 2024, Swoboda and two voters filed a lawsuit challenging Gov. Katie Hobbs' authority to sign two executive orders expanding voter registration and ballot drop-off locations to various state agencies. Swoboda claimed Hobbs had exceeded her authority in directing some state agencies to make voter registration forms available to the public and acted illegally in directing agencies, including the adult and juvenile corrections systems, to act as ballot

drop-off locations. The lawsuit argued that only local officials had the authority to decide registration and drop off locations. The case was dismissed by the Arizona Supreme Court.

**2025: Under Swoboda's leadership, the Arizona GOP called on AG Kris Mayes to drop a legal pursuit to reinstate the indictments against 11 fake electors.** After the Arizona Court of Appeals refused to reinstate indictments against 11 fake electors and others who Attorney General Kris Mayes argued were part of a scheme to overturn the 2020 presidential race, the Arizona Republican Party called on Mayes to drop the "politically motivated case." Swoboda said Mayes should "stop wasting time and taxpayer resources on partisan lawfare." Further, Swoboda argued "Five years later, Kris Mayes is still fixated on 2020 while violent crime, fentanyl trafficking, and border chaos threaten our communities every single day." She said "This obsession is not justice it's politics," pointing out that similar cases filed in other states have faltered."

**Swoboda was an adviser to election denier Kari Lake.** Swoboda was an adviser to Kari Lake's unsuccessful 2022 gubernatorial campaign. Lake called Swoboda's election as state GOP leader a "massive victory" for Lake's campaign and Trump's campaign. After Republican lawyers left the RNC's "election integrity" operation in Arizona, Kari Lake's spokesperson said the Lake campaign had "full confidence" in Swoboda to "lead the Election Integrity efforts in Arizona." In 2024, Lake nominated Swoboda for chair of the state party after Swoboda's predecessor, Jeff DeWit, resigned following a scandal over a leaked recording in which he told Lake "powerful people" would give her money or a job if she did not run for Senate. DeWit claimed Lake was the one who leaked the recording.

**Swoboda "grew up a Democrat and has bounced between supporting Clinton to the Tea Party, even to liking what Bernie Sanders has had to say at one point, until Trump entered the picture."** According to a profile by KJZZ, Swoboda "grew up a Democrat and has bounced between supporting Clinton to the Tea Party, even to liking what Bernie Sanders has had to say at one point, until Trump entered the picture." Swoboda said she left the Democratic party in 2008, citing issues with the primary between Clinton and Obama that left her feeling "disgusted with the whole process."

## BACKGROUND

### Career History

**2018 – 2020: Swoboda worked in the Arizona Secretary of State's Office under both Republican Michele Reagan and Democrat Katie Hobbs.** “Swoboda worked from 2018 to 2020 in the Arizona Secretary of State's Office, which oversees elections. She served under two secretaries of state – Republican Michele Reagan and Democrat Katie Hobbs, who's now Arizona governor.” [Center Square, 10/27/25]

**Swoboda worked on Trump's unsuccessful 2020 presidential campaign and was seen as an ally of the president.** “Gina Swoboda, the former Arizona Republican Party chair who's running for Congress, announced she has President Donald Trump's endorsement. Swoboda worked on Trump's unsuccessful 2020 presidential campaign and is seen as an ally of the president.” [Center Square, 10/27/25]

- **Swoboda was the elections day director of operations in Arizona for Trump in 2020.** “A former employee of the Secretary of State's Office under both Republican Michele Reagan and Democrat Hobbs, Swoboda also was the elections day director of operations in Arizona for Trump in 2020.” [Mohave Valley Daily News, 8/22/25]

**Swoboda was an adviser to Kari Lake's unsuccessful 2022 gubernatorial campaign.** “Swoboda is a former elections coordinator for Trump and adviser to Kari Lake's unsuccessful 2022 gubernatorial campaign. She won her first term as state GOP chair in a drama-filled meeting last year.” [Arizona Republic, 1/25/25]

**2024-2025: Swoboda was elected to lead the Arizona GOP twice.** “Arizona Republican officials voted to keep their leader, Gina Swoboda, for another year on Saturday at the state GOP's annual meeting. Swoboda, an election lawyer endorsed by President Donald Trump, beat back an attempt to replace her by former state Rep. Cory McGarr by a vote of 978 to 758. [...] She won her first term as state GOP chair in a drama-filled meeting last year.” [Arizona Republic, 1/25/25]

- **Swoboda received Trump's endorsement for party chair twice, in 2024 and 2025, but faced opposition from Turning Point Action activists.** “Although Swoboda received President Donald Trump's endorsement for party chair twice, in 2024 and 2025, she faces opposition from members of her own party, some of whom are closely associated with or endorsed by Turning Point Action, including Hoffman and Harris.” [Deseret News, 9/3/25]
- **October 2025: Swoboda resigned as the state party chair to focus on her congressional campaign.** “To focus on her campaign for Schweikert's seat, Swoboda submitted her resignation Friday as the state party chair, the Arizona Republican Party announced in its newsletter.” [Center Square, 10/27/25]
- **Arizona Republic: “In 2025 her criticism of misspending in the state's billion-dollar Empowerment Scholarship Account program, a sacred cow for some Republicans, dovetailed with previous gripes by far-right Republicans about her alleged support of gubernatorial candidate Karrin Taylor Robson, and led to calls for her to resign as state**

**GOP chair.”** [Arizona Republic, 2/16/26]

- **Right wing activists called for Swoboda’s removal after she said “guardrails” were needed around a program that provided school vouchers and opted not to support Trump’s decision to defund PBS.** “But what appears to have stoked the new calls for her removal are comments she made saying that ‘guardrails’ are needed around the program that provides vouchers of state tax dollars for students to attend private and parochial schools as well as those who are home schooled. And Hoffman and Harris are angry that Swoboda has not supported Trump in his decision to defund PBS -- particularly in light of new information about how KAET-TV, the Arizona affiliate, gave Katie Hobbs airtime even though the then-gubernatorial hopeful refused to debate Republican Kari Lake.” [Mohave Valley Daily News, 8/22/25]

**As of 2025, Swoboda was the executive director of the Voter Reference Foundation, a subsidiary of the nonprofit Restoration Action Inc – a project of billionaire Richard ‘Dick’ Uihlein that promotes election reform based on Republican concerns.** “Swoboda's the executive director of the Voter Reference Foundation, a subsidiary of the nonprofit Restoration Action Inc. That’s a project of billionaire Richard ‘Dick’ Uihlein that promotes election reform based on Republican concerns. American Oversight, a liberal watchdog group, disparages her work as providing a ‘resource for voter-fraud activists.’” [Arizona Republic, 1/25/25]

**2024: Swoboda was hired as the Arizona Senate’s election adviser.** “She worked in the Arizona Secretary of State's Office under both Republican Michele Reagan and Democrat Katie Hobbs. Warren Petersen, the Senate president, approved hiring her as the chamber’s election adviser this year.” [Arizona Republic, 1/25/25]

**July 2025: Swoboda became a senior policy adviser for the Arizona House Federalism, Military Affairs and Elections Committee.** “In July, Swoboda became a senior policy adviser for the Arizona House Federalism, Military Affairs and Elections Committee.” [Center Square, 10/27/25]

**Trump endorsed Swoboda’s 2025 run to represent Arizona’s 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District.** “Gina Swoboda, the former Arizona Republican Party chair who's running for Congress, announced she has President Donald Trump's endorsement. Swoboda worked on Trump's unsuccessful 2020 presidential campaign and is seen as an ally of the president.” [Center Square, 10/27/25]

- **Feb. 2026: Swoboda ended her congressional campaign to run instead for Arizona secretary of state, a move she had signaled for weeks after her campaign struggled in the competitive race.** “Former Arizona Republican Party chair Gina Swoboda is ending her congressional campaign to run for Arizona secretary of state. Swoboda had signaled for weeks that she may switch races, after her campaign for a hotly contested U.S. House seat struggled despite an endorsement from President Donald Trump. She announced the decision on Feb. 13, promoting her revamped website on social media.” [Arizona Republic, 2/16/26]

## Personal Life

**Swoboda “grew up a Democrat and has bounced between supporting Clinton to the Tea Party, even to liking what Bernie Sanders has had to say at one point, until Trump entered the picture.”** “She's a former elections official, an activist who then ushered the state party to major wins up and

down the ballot in the 2024 elections, including a decisive Trump win here. But Swoboda, a Trump loyalist, GOP activist and sometimes election questioner, has not always been a Republican. In fact, she embodies the political horse you were seeing come up so often in politics today. She grew up a Democrat and has bounced between supporting Clinton to the Tea Party, even to liking what Bernie Sanders has had to say at one point, until Trump entered the picture.” [KJZZ, [3/27/25](#)]

**Swoboda said she left the Democratic party in 2008, citing issues with the primary between Clinton and Obama.** “SWOBODA: You know, I'm from Queens and my parents were Republicans, but I was a Democrat. I was a Clinton Democrat. I was a DLC Democrat. I had the jacket and everything. And, yes, I love the '90s. It was pre-NAFTA. Gas was \$0.83 a gallon. There was peace. There was prosperity. If you look at the State of the Union address, that any of them that Bill Clinton gave any close your eyes and you didn't know anything about politics, you would think that was a current populist Republican. Our parties have evolved, and shifted, right, to such an extent that I don't, I don't know, at any given moment where, where they are on their platforms. But the platform of that party at that time in my 20s in Queens, you know, was a good place to be. Yeah, I was a Democrat. GILGER: When did you leave? SWOBODA: The 2008 primary. GILGER: Why? SWOBODA: Well, OK. So, obviously I've always been fascinated by politics and elections, and I like horse racing and boxing. These things all have things in common. Yes. And I was heavily engaged in the process and following it. And then Michigan moved up their primary earlier than the DNC wanted them to, and to punish them, they got stripped of delegates. Barack Obama was not on the ballot in that election in Michigan. Hillary was on the ballot. Hillary won votes. She had delegates. The Rules Committee voted to just strip her of some of those delegates and award them to Obama, because if he had been on the ballot, we surmise he would have gotten X amount. It was ridiculous to me. It was. I was really just disgusted and outraged. They had a predetermined outcome that they wanted, in my opinion, and they moved heaven and earth and literally shifted buckets of votes around to get what they wanted. And I was like, this isn't right. And I just started getting like disgusted with the whole process. It just turned me off.” [KJZZ, [3/27/25](#)]

**Swoboda identified as Catholic and Italian.** “Then we had Trump come right. And he spoke to the working people and the middle class people. And that is, in my opinion, how he won, you know, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio. That this was you know, I'm Catholic and I'm Italian, and I was ethnic Democrats like New York, Pennsylvania right there, like all those little ethnic Democrats that keep ignoring the choice issue.” [KJZZ, [3/27/25](#)]

**Swoboda said she was from Queens, New York.** “SWOBODA: You know, I'm from Queens and my parents were Republicans, but I was a Democrat. I was a Clinton Democrat.” [KJZZ, [3/27/25](#)]

SOS CAMPAIGN

**February 2026: Swoboda ended her Congressional campaign and launched bid for Secretary of State.** “Former Arizona Republican Party chair Gina Swoboda is ending her congressional campaign to run for Arizona secretary of state. Swoboda had signaled for weeks that she may switch races, after her campaign for a hotly contested U.S. House seat struggled despite an endorsement from President Donald Trump. She announced the decision on Feb. 13, promoting her revamped website on social media. [...] Swoboda will compete with state Rep. Alexander Kolodin, a member of the hardline Arizona Freedom Caucus, and several other Republican candidates in the secretary of state's race.” [Arizona Republic, [2/13/26](#)]

- **Arizona Republic: “It wasn’t immediately clear whether Trump would continue to endorse Swoboda after she switched races.”** “It wasn’t immediately clear whether Trump would continue to endorse Swoboda after she switched races. Swoboda and her political adviser didn’t immediately return requests for comment. The announcement continues an uncertain trajectory for Swoboda, an elections activist whose time at the helm of the state GOP was marked by Republican electoral victories and clashes with the conservative heavyweight group Turning Point and some other grassroots activists.” [Arizona Republic, [2/13/26](#)]
- **As a candidate for AZ’s 1st Congressional district, Swoboda received Trump’s endorsement.** “President Trump shook up the Republican primary for the highly competitive 1st Congressional District with dual endorsements to Gina Swoboda and Jay Feely. Why it matters: Several high-profile candidates are vying for the GOP nomination in the open Phoenix and Scottsdale-based swing district, which could help determine which party wins control of the U.S. House in November. State of play: Trump announced the dual endorsement on Truth Social on Tuesday, calling Feely and Swoboda ‘Highly Respected America First Patriots.’ ‘Both fierce advocates of Make America Great Again, Jay and Gina have been with us from the very beginning, and either one would be an incredible Representative,’ Trump said.” [Axios, [1/6/26](#)]

**Swoboda: “I have worked with our election officials local and federal for many years and I have a respect for our partners at every level of government that will enable us to move forward and execute.”** “The Arizona Secretary of State’s office is the designated point of contact for voters statewide during our elections. This office serves as the filing office for statewide initiatives, conducts Logic & Accuracy testing on all county election tabulation equipment and the Secretary writes the Elections Procedures Manual that codifies many processes within our elections process. The Secretary also administers the statewide voter registration database, which is comprised of data files from all 15 county recorders. All of these processes require teamwork and all of them are bottom up with county recorders, election directors, boards of supervisors and filers as the stakeholders and the Secretary receiving their feedback, addressing their needs and coordinating a jointly executed operation where respect, professionalism and cooperation are integral for success. We need a Secretary who understands how to work with multiple stakeholders at the county, state and federal level to ensure Arizona elections are well-funded, well-run, and secure. I have worked with our election officials local and federal for many years and I have a respect for our partners at every level of government that will enable us to move forward and execute.” [ginaforsos.com, accessed [5/22/26](#)]

**Swoboda: “We need a Secretary who understands how to work with multiple stakeholders at the county, state and federal level to ensure Arizona elections are well-funded, well-run, and secure.”** “The Arizona Secretary of State’s office is the designated point of contact for voters statewide during our elections. This office serves as the filing office for statewide initiatives, conducts Logic & Accuracy testing on all county election tabulation equipment and the Secretary writes the Elections Procedures Manual that codifies many processes within our elections process. The Secretary also administers the statewide voter registration database, which is comprised of data files from all 15 county recorders. All of these processes require teamwork and all of them are bottom up with county recorders, election directors, boards of supervisors and filers as the stakeholders and the Secretary receiving their feedback, addressing their needs and coordinating a jointly executed operation where respect, professionalism and cooperation are integral for success. We need a Secretary who understands how to work with multiple stakeholders at the county, state and federal level to ensure Arizona elections are well-funded, well-run, and secure. I have worked with our election officials local and federal for many years and I have a

respect for our partners at every level of government that will enable us to move forward and execute.” [ginaforsos.com, accessed [5/22/26](#)]

## Opponents

**March 2025: Kolodin said Swoboda asked him to run and endorsed him, but Swoboda issued a statement saying she had not endorsed a candidate in the primary.** “In a video announcing his bid for the state's top election official, Kolodin walks toward the camera with a slightly blurred Arizona Capitol building in the background. In the video, Kolodin claims that the head of the Arizona Republican Party, Gina Swoboda, asked him to run and endorsed him. But Swoboda issued a statement later on Monday saying that she hadn't endorsed Kolodin and wouldn't endorse any candidate in the Republican primary. She added that she would support Kolodin if he wins the primary, as she had previously said she would. In fact, Swoboda is strongly considering a run for the office herself, something she told multiple reporters on Monday.” [Arizona Mirror, 3/31/25]

**Arizona Republic: Swoboda on an “uncertain trajectory” amid clashes with “conservative heavyweight group Turning Point and some other grassroots activists.”** “The announcement continues an uncertain trajectory for Swoboda, an elections activist whose time at the helm of the state GOP was marked by Republican electoral victories and clashes with the conservative heavyweight group Turning Point and some other grassroots activists. Speculation about her congressional candidacy drew sniping from Turning Point allies even before she launched her campaign in October. Even Trump's backing, usually a golden ticket in GOP politics, failed to quell the attacks against her. [...] As party chair, Swoboda helped prepare for and oversee the Republican Party's success in the November 2024 election, which included a solid victory for Trump and expansion of GOP ranks in the Arizona Legislature. But her tenure was punctuated by attacks from the party's right flank, many of them allies of Turning Point. In 2025 her criticism of misspending in the state's billion-dollar Empowerment Scholarship Account program, a sacred cow for some Republicans, dovetailed with previous gripes by far-right Republicans about her alleged support of gubernatorial candidate Karrin Taylor Robson, and led to calls for her to resign as state GOP chair.” [Arizona Republic, [2/13/26](#)]

## ELECTIONS & VOTING ISSUES

### Campaign Finance

**Swoboda on campaign finance: “The software systems in use are ancient and fail to provide the transparency needed for the public to see funding flows [...] Our filers, the public, and the media need to be able to access effective filing processes and retrieve reports on demand. I will make the changes needed to finally get us there.”** “The AZ Secretary of State is the filing officer for campaign finance for candidates for state offices, standing committees, clean election candidates, PACs and independent expenditure committees. The office also serves as the filing officer for lobbyist registration which includes our public bodies. The software systems in use are ancient and fail to provide the transparency needed for the public to see funding flows. As the former Campaign Finance & Lobbying Director for AZ SOS, I know exactly where the software and hardware issues are and I know exactly how to fix them. Our filers, the public, and the media need to be able to access effective filing processes and retrieve reports on demand. I will make the changes needed to finally get us there.” [ginaforsos.com, accessed [5/22/26](#)]

### CrowdStrike

**2024: After a global CrowdStrike Outage affected election systems in Nevada, Swoboda said the breaches “highlight alarming fragilities” in the voting system and insisted on confirmation that “there was no nefarious activity.”** “The Republican National Committee (RNC) is questioning local election officials in Arizona about how the CrowdStrike outage may have impacted their voting centers last week. The RNC, Arizona Republican Party and the Trump campaign’s election integrity department sent a letter to every county in Arizona demanding answers about whether the global CrowdStrike outage affected election systems. Republicans have made election integrity a central part of their agenda and have repeatedly called for stricter voting measures. The outage largely affected flights and businesses, but many government offices also reported similar outages on Friday. At least two counties in the state reported some disruptions to their voting systems when early primary voting was taking place. In a statement, RNC chair Michael Whatley and Arizona Republican chair Gina Swoboda said that the breaches ‘highlight alarming fragilities’ in the voting system, adding that they need confirmation that ‘there was no nefarious activity.’” [The Hill, 7/23/24]

### Early Voting

**Swoboda encouraged voters to vote early in 2024, despite previously casting doubt on the integrity of mail-in and early voting.** “Gina Swoboda, the chairwoman of Arizona's Republican Party, is another official who has cast doubt on the integrity of mail-in and early voting, and called for the practice to be curtailed. Now, she, too, is urging voters to get their ballots in early. ‘Don't get jammed up, don't have to wait on the line on Election Day -- vote early,’ Ms. Swoboda said in a video message that the state party posted on social media last week. That is not to say that Republicans aren't still divided on this issue. The Republican Party in Washoe County, Nevada's second-largest, has advised voters in social media posts to 'opt out of mail-in voting.’” [New York Times, 10/24/24]

- **Swoboda called for mail-in and early voting to be curtailed.** “Gina Swoboda, the chairwoman of Arizona's Republican Party, is another official who has cast doubt on the integrity of mail-in and early voting, and called for the practice to be curtailed. Now, she, too, is urging voters to get their ballots in early. ‘Don't get jammed up, don't have to wait on the line on Election Day -- vote early,’ Ms. Swoboda said in a video message that the state party posted on social media last week. That is not to say that Republicans aren't still divided on this issue. The Republican Party in Washoe County, Nevada's second-largest, has advised voters in social media posts to "opt out of mail-in voting.’” [New York Times, 10/24/24]

### Mail Ballots

**Swoboda threatened to sue if far-right Maricopa County Recorder Justin Heap mailed ballots to voters who had not requested them ahead of a special primary election, saying “it adds to confusion and it undermines the integrity and security of the process.”** “Last year, far-right Republican Justin Heap won the election as Maricopa County recorder by harping on election integrity. He called Arizona's elections a laughingstock and flirted with the election denialism that has consumed his party. When he was in charge, he said, he'd secure the county's untrustworthy elections and follow the letter of the law. How's that been going? Not great. Four months into Heap's tenure, he's caused a widening rift with a host of fellow Republicans in the Valley, feuding with the GOP-controlled county board of supervisors and the county attorney. Now, even the chair of the Arizona Republican Party is on Heap's ass and threatening to sue him. At issue is a plan, floated by Heap earlier this week, to mail ballots in an upcoming special primary election to voters who have not requested them. While Heap has



cast this as an effort to make voting easier the affected voters live far from polling places, he said his plan carries the downside of being, well, illegal. Arizona law prohibits mailing ballots to voters who are not on the Active Early Voting List or who have not requested a mail ballot in advance. [...] But perhaps the strongest comments have come from state GOP chair Gina Swoboda, who told Phoenix New Times that the Arizona Republican Party ‘will sue’ if Heap attempts to mail ballots to voters who haven’t requested them. ‘People who have not requested a mail ballot should not be sent a mail ballot because it adds to confusion and it undermines the integrity and security of the process. That’s always been the position of the Republican Party of Arizona,’ Swoboda said. ‘I’m astounded that someone who ran on election integrity can think that’s a good idea.’” [Phoenix New Times, 5/9/25]

- **Swoboda: “I’m astounded that someone who ran on election integrity can think that’s a good idea.”** “But perhaps the strongest comments have come from state GOP chair Gina Swoboda, who told Phoenix New Times that the Arizona Republican Party ‘will sue’ if Heap attempts to mail ballots to voters who haven’t requested them. ‘People who have not requested a mail ballot should not be sent a mail ballot because it adds to confusion and it undermines the integrity and security of the process. That’s always been the position of the Republican Party of Arizona,’ Swoboda said. ‘I’m astounded that someone who ran on election integrity can think that’s a good idea.’” [Phoenix New Times, 5/9/25]

### Proof of Citizenship

**Under Swoboda’s leadership, the GOP challenged the voting eligibility of some U.S. citizens who have always lived abroad.** “This article was originally published by Votebeat, a nonprofit news organization covering local election administration and voting access. The Republican Party is challenging the voting eligibility of some U.S. citizens who have always lived abroad, in what they’re calling a broader strategy ahead of next year’s midterms to clean up voter rolls and improve voter confidence. [...] Arizona does not track the total number of overseas voters who have never lived in the U.S., but local data suggests there aren’t many. The state’s second largest county, Pima County, for example, has around 670,000 registered voters, but only three who meet the definition. Arizona Republican Party Chair Gina Swoboda said that for her, it’s not about the number or even the politics. She said she believes the law conflicts with the state constitution, and that citizens who have never lived in the U.S. or Arizona should not be able to vote in the state, because they ‘don’t have skin in the game.’” [Tucson Sentinel, 7/16/25]

- **Swoboda said citizens who have never lived in the U.S. or Arizona should not be able to vote in the state, because they “don’t have skin in the game.”** “Arizona does not track the total number of overseas voters who have never lived in the U.S., but local data suggests there aren’t many. The state’s second largest county, Pima County, for example, has around 670,000 registered voters, but only three who meet the definition. Arizona Republican Party Chair Gina Swoboda said that for her, it’s not about the number or even the politics. She said she believes the law conflicts with the state constitution, and that citizens who have never lived in the U.S. or Arizona should not be able to vote in the state, because they ‘don’t have skin in the game.’” [Tucson Sentinel, 7/16/25]
- **Most frequently the voters in question are children of U.S. citizens who have been in the military or lived overseas for other reasons.** “Most frequently, they are children of U.S. citizens who have been in the military, or lived overseas for other reasons. Three-quarters of states have laws on the books allowing such citizens to vote by absentee or mail ballot in the

same state where their parents or other relatives last lived or are registered.” [Tucson Sentinel, 7/16/25]

- **Swoboda said many such voters might be freshly 18 and living with their parents who are based overseas, but not all.** “McDevitt-Pugh said these voters are often young adults with parents tied to the U.S. military, likely people who just turned 18 and are still living with or dependent on parents based overseas. Swoboda said that might be true for many such voters, but not all. If a voter is 60 years old and has never lived in Arizona, she said, ‘why the hell should this person have any choice in policy that is not affecting them?’” [Tucson Sentinel, 7/16/25]
- **Swoboda: If a voter is 60 years old and has never lived in Arizona, “why the hell should this person have any choice in policy that is not affecting them?”** “Swoboda said that might be true for many such voters, but not all. If a voter is 60 years old and has never lived in Arizona, she said, ‘why the hell should this person have any choice in policy that is not affecting them?’” [Tucson Sentinel, 7/16/25]
- **Swoboda said she would encourage the GOP to sue every state has a law similar to Arizona’s, which requires voters to have resided in the state to be eligible.** “The lawsuit argues that the 2005 statute conflicts with the constitution's requirement that the voter must have resided in the state to be eligible. Swoboda, who is also the RNC's election integrity chair, said she would encourage the party to sue every state that has a similar law.” [Tucson Sentinel, 7/16/25]

**Swoboda said a SCOTUS ruling allowing Arizona to stop accepting state-created voter registration forms from Arizona residents unless they provide proof of citizenship was a “tremendous victory for every Arizona voter who demands confidence that our elections are protected from non-citizen interference.”** “The United States Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that Arizona can enforce part of a voter registration law that is being challenged in federal court, effectively allowing the state to bar legal voters from registering just about 10 weeks before the election. In a split decision, the high court handed a win to the Republican National Committee and Arizona legislative leaders Ben Toma, the speaker of the state House of Representatives, and Warren Petersen, the state Senate president. In a 5-4 decision via an unsigned order. The court reinstated a portion of the law that allows the state to stop accepting state-created voter registration forms from Arizona residents unless they provide proof of citizenship. 'This is a tremendous victory for every Arizona voter who demands confidence that our elections are protected from non-citizen interference,' AZGOP chairwoman Gina Swoboda said in a written statement. 'The Supreme Court's ruling ensures that Arizona can uphold the integrity of its elections, giving voters the assurance they deserve.'” [Arizona Mirror, 8/22/24]

**2024: Amid concerns that a proof of citizenship measure would cause 100,000 Arizonans who did not have the required proof on file to be sent only partial ballots, Swoboda said she did not want to interfere with the group's ability to vote on state races “rightfully or wrongfully.”** “With control of the Legislature at stake, Arizona Republican leaders want to hold off banning thousands of people from voting a full ballot until after November's election, even if it increases the odds that a noncitizen would be able to cast a vote. A technical error in the interface between the Motor Vehicle Division and the state’s voter registration system means about 98,000 Arizonans are registered to vote without having required proof of citizenship on file, state and county election officials announced Tuesday. The question

now is what to do about it. And the answers some Arizona politicians are providing appear to contradict past positions. In the hours after the glitch was first discovered, election officials charted two potential paths forward in seeking Arizona Supreme Court guidance. Democratic Secretary of State Adrian Fontes sought to allow the voters access to a full ballot of local, state and federal races, the same type of ballot they had been voting for decades. Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer, a Republican, asked the court to limit ballot access for those voters to only federal races. [...] State GOP Chair Gina Swoboda in a video she released Tuesday night explained what would happen to mail-in voters who don't realize they're not listed as having shown proof of citizenship. They'll receive a ballot in the mail with only federal races — no legislative candidates, no ballot propositions, no judges. 'We might lose those votes,' Swoboda said, adding she doesn't want to interfere with the group's ability to vote on state races 'rightfully or wrongfully.'" [Arizona Republic, 9/19/24]

- **Swoboda: "Nearly 100,000 Arizona voters should not be penalized for a mistake made by the government. We will not stand by as voters are disenfranchised, especially so close to an election."** "But Arizona Republicans briefly changed their tune on enforcing proof of citizenship to cast a ballot when a database error could have disenfranchised roughly 98,000 voters - mostly registered Republicans - from local and state elections. That number has since more than doubled to 218,000. The Arizona GOP initially joined Democratic Secretary of State Adrian Fontes in urging the state Supreme Court to keep full ballot access for these voters. 'Nearly 100,000 Arizona voters should not be penalized for a mistake made by the government. We will not stand by as voters are disenfranchised, especially so close to an election,' said Republican Party Chair Gina Swoboda in a Sept. 18 news release, before officials announced there were additional affected voters. The court ruled in their favor, permitting the voters to have full ballot access." [Casa Grande Dispatch, 10/8/24]
- **Voters had been miscategorized on the rolls due to a coding glitch in a state database, causing a problem with people who received a driver's license before October 1996, when the state began requiring proof of citizenship.** "These are voters who were miscategorized on the rolls because of a coding glitch in the state's motor vehicle database, a glitch that dates back two decades. The problem lies with people who got a regular Arizona driver's license before October 1996, when the state began requiring proof of citizenship. Then they got a replacement license - either because they'd lost their original one or needed to update an address - after 2004. Unbeknownst to elections officials, the MVD coded that replacement license with the later issuance date, even though the citizenship requirement had not been met. Fast forward to those people who then registered to vote in 2005 or thereafter, once proof of citizenship was required." [Arizona Republic, 9/19/24]

## Poll Watchers

**Swoboda said the top issues poll watchers are trained to look out for are long lines, equipment malfunctions, voter intimidation, and polls not opening on time.** "Arizona Republican Party Chairwoman Gina Swoboda told the Washington Examiner that the top issues poll watchers are trained to look out for are long lines, equipment malfunctions, voter intimidation, and polls not opening on time. She said that between watchers and workers, Republicans in her state are set to have up to 6,500 volunteers manning the polls." [Denver Gazette, 10/25/24]

**In response to ballot drop box protections in the Elections Procedures Manual, Swoboda said "this is a blatant attempt to rewrite election law and hollow out basic safeguards that are designed to**

**preserve election integrity in our state's election.”** “The Arizona Free Enterprise Club is asking a judge to void proposed rules that say its members have no right to photograph, approach, question and even seek ‘documentation’ of voters who are using drop boxes. Attorneys for the group contend that rules in the new Elections Procedures Manual about what can be restricted around the freestanding outdoor boxes where voters deposit their ballots violates the First Amendment rights of its members. [...] ‘This is a blatant attempt to rewrite election law and hollow out basic safeguards that are designed to preserve election integrity in our state's election,’ state GOP Chair Gina Swoboda said in a prepared statement.” [Casa Grande Dispatch, 2/12/24]

- **The proposed rules would have prevented photographing and questioning voters using drop boxes.** “The Arizona Free Enterprise Club is asking a judge to void proposed rules that say its members have no right to photograph, approach, question and even seek ‘documentation’ of voters who are using drop boxes. Attorneys for the group contend that rules in the new Elections Procedures Manual about what can be restricted around the freestanding outdoor boxes where voters deposit their ballots violates the First Amendment rights of its members. [...] ‘This is a blatant attempt to rewrite election law and hollow out basic safeguards that are designed to preserve election integrity in our state's election,’ state GOP Chair Gina Swoboda said in a prepared statement.” [Casa Grande Dispatch, 2/12/24]

## Voter Fraud

**After social media activists shared a recording of a Maricopa County trainer telling election workers not to confront voters if they witness suspected ballot harvesting, Swoboda said the election worker had done nothing wrong.** “That already happened in Maricopa County when right wing provocateur James O’Keefe shared a secret recording late last month of a trainer telling election workers not to confront voters if they witness suspected ballot harvesting. O’Keefe, who is known for publishing misleading undercover videos, posted the recording on X, claiming that the video brought up ‘serious questions about the integrity of the voting process.’ In reality, the video showed the trainer providing an accurate description of the state's election laws. Even the head of the Arizona Republican Party, Gina Swoboda, who has a reputation of spreading misinformation herself, said the election worker did nothing wrong.” [Casa Grande Dispatch, 11/5/24]

**Swoboda drew criticism for explaining there is a legitimate reason it takes a number of days to count early ballots even as others within her party were claiming fraud.** “Swoboda, who was voted in her position in early 2024 and won reelection earlier this year, has been at odds with some of the more conservative members of the GOP for some time now. For example, Swoboda, who has previously worked as an election official, drew criticism for explaining there is a legitimate reason it takes a number of days to count early ballots even as others within her party were claiming fraud.” [Mohave Valley Daily News, 8/22/25]

**After Jake Hoffman and Liz Harris asked for Swoboda’s removal as state party leader, Swoboda said “Hoffman and Harris are little more than low-rent grifters with sordid histories who want to destroy the Republican Party in Arizona.”** “Swoboda, for her part, defends her actions. And she is lashing out at Hoffman who is a state senator from Queen Creek who also is one of 18 indicted by a state grand jury for being part of a 2020 ‘fake elector’ plan for Trump, and Harris who was a state representative from Chandler before being expelled from the House in 2023 for inviting witnesses to present false and libelous charges about lawmakers and other state officials and then lying about her

involvement in the testimony. ‘Hoffman and Harris are little more than low-rent grifters with sordid histories who want to destroy the Republican Party in Arizona,’ she told Capitol Media Services on Thursday. ‘Their pathetic self-aggrandizing attacks on Republicans are so common and predictable that they ceased to be taken seriously long ago.’” [Mohave Valley Daily News, 8/22/25]

- **Hoffman was one of 18 indicted by a state grand jury for being part of a 2020 “fake elector” plan for Trump.** “Swoboda, for her part, defends her actions. And she is lashing out at Hoffman who is a state senator from Queen Creek who also is one of 18 indicted by a state grand jury for being part of a 2020 ‘fake elector’ plan for Trump, and Harris who was a state representative from Chandler before being expelled from the House in 2023 for inviting witnesses to present false and libelous charges about lawmakers and other state officials and then lying about her involvement in the testimony. ‘Hoffman and Harris are little more than low-rent grifters with sordid histories who want to destroy the Republican Party in Arizona,’ she told Capitol Media Services on Thursday. ‘Their pathetic self-aggrandizing attacks on Republicans are so common and predictable that they ceased to be taken seriously long ago.’” [Mohave Valley Daily News, 8/22/25]
- **Hoffman and Harris were angry, in part, that Swoboda had not supported Trump’s decision to defund PBS, particularly in light of new information about how KAET-TV, the Arizona affiliate, gave Katie Hobbs airtime even though the then-gubernatorial hopeful refused to debate Republican Kari Lake.** “And Hoffman and Harris are angry that Swoboda has not supported Trump in his decision to defund PBS -- particularly in light of new information about how KAET-TV, the Arizona affiliate, gave Katie Hobbs airtime even though the then-gubernatorial hopeful refused to debate Republican Kari Lake.” [Mohave Valley Daily News, 8/22/25]

**NYT: Swoboda “runs a nonprofit group that has falsely claimed to have found huge discrepancies in voting records in a number of states.”** “Gina Swoboda, who directed election-day integrity operations in Arizona for Mr. Trump in 2020 and runs a nonprofit group that has falsely claimed to have found huge discrepancies in voting records in a number of states, was picked to replace Jeff DeWit, who stepped down as chairman on Wednesday.” [New York Times, [1/27/24](#)]

## Lawsuits

### *Voter Rolls*

**2026: Swoboda declined to join the appeal of voter registration lawsuit that alleged Arizona’s voter rolls were implausibly high, describing the legal challenge as “weak” and based on unreliable 2020 census data.** “Case dismissed for lack of standing: The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the plaintiffs Republican activists Scot Mussi and Steven Gaynor failed to show they were personally or concretely harmed, calling their claims of future ‘vote dilution’ entirely hypothetical. No evidence of ineligible voters: While the lawsuit alleged that Arizona’s voter rolls were ‘implausibly high’ based on census data, the court noted the plaintiffs provided no actual proof of deceased or relocated individuals currently remains on the registration lists. GOP internal division: Arizona Republican Party Chair Gina Swoboda, a former party to the original suit, declined to join the appeal, describing the legal challenge as ‘weak’ and based on unreliable 2020 census data.” [Eastern Arizona Courier, 3/19/26]

- **Swoboda, the chair of the Arizona Republican Party at the time the suit was filed, said she was not surprised by the ruling.** “Gina Swoboda, the chair of the Arizona Republican Party at the time the suit was filed, told Capitol Media Services she was not surprised by the ruling. Swoboda was part of the original lawsuit dismissed by a trial judge in 2024 but declined to join the appeal, calling the evidence based on the 2020 census unreliable.” [Eastern Arizona Courier, 3/19/26]
- **Swoboda was a former party to the original suit that was dismissed by a trial judge in 2024.** “Gina Swoboda, the chair of the Arizona Republican Party at the time the suit was filed, told Capitol Media Services she was not surprised by the ruling. Swoboda was part of the original lawsuit dismissed by a trial judge in 2024 but declined to join the appeal, calling the evidence based on the 2020 census unreliable.” [Eastern Arizona Courier, 3/19/26]

**2024: Swoboda, along with Arizona Free Enterprise Club President Scot Mussi and 2018 Republican Secretary of State candidate Steve Gaynor, sued Secretary of State Adrian Fontes and accused the state of violating the National Voter Registration Act by failing to purge ineligible voters from registration rolls.** “In 2024, then-Arizona Republican Party Chairwoman Gina Swoboda, who is now running for the nomination of her party for Secretary of State, along with Arizona Free Enterprise Club President Scot Mussi and unsuccessful 2018 Republican Secretary of State candidate Steve Gaynor sued Secretary of State Adrian Fontes and accused the state of violating the National Voter Registration Act. The lawsuit claimed that Fontes failed to purge over a million ineligible and unaccounted for voters from the state's registration rolls, costing the Arizona Republican Party time and resources on voter education and mobilization claims. However, a trial court judge concluded that they had no standing to sue. On Tuesday, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed.” [Arizona Mirror, 3/18/26]

**2024: A federal judge said New Mexico election regulators and prosecutors discriminated against Voter Reference Foundation – run by Swoboda – by refusing access to voter registration rolls.** “But Albuquerque-based U.S. District Court Judge James Browning ruled that state election regulators engaged in viewpoint-based discrimination and free speech violations in denying the Voter Reference Foundation access to voter data and by referring the matter to state prosecutors. The foundation’s VoteRef.com database includes voter information spanning more than 32 states and the District of Columbia. It is run by Gina Swoboda, chair of the Arizona Republican Party and organizer of former President Donald Trump’s 2020 re-election campaign in Arizona.” [AP, 9/3/24]

### *Executive Orders*

**2024: Swoboda legally challenged executive orders issued by Gov. Hobbs aimed at expanding voter registration and making it easier for people to drop off their ballots, claiming they undermine election integrity.** “Governor Katie Hobbs recently issued executive orders in Arizona aimed at expanding voter registration and making it easier for people to drop off their ballots. These orders allow state agencies to offer their buildings as voting sites and make voter registration forms more widely available. While these actions are framed as efforts to increase voter access, they have sparked a legal challenge from Gina Swoboda, head of the Arizona Republican Party, who claims they undermine election integrity.” [Mohave Valley Daily News, 9/4/24]

- **Swoboda claimed Hobbs had exceeded her authority in directing some state agencies to make voter registration forms available to the public and acted illegally in directing those**

**agencies, including the adult and juvenile corrections systems, to act as ballot drop-off locations.** “The head of the Arizona Republican Party wants the state Supreme Court to void two executive orders issued by Gov. Katie Hobbs designed to make registration and voting easier. In a new lawsuit filed late Thursday, Gina Swoboda charges that the Democratic governor exceeded her authority in directing some state agencies to make voter registration forms available to the public. Swoboda said Hobbs also acted illegally in directing those agencies, including the adult and juvenile corrections systems, to act as ballot drop-off locations.” [Arizona Capitol Times, [8/24/24](#)]

- **September 2024: Arizona Supreme Court dismissed Swoboda’s case.** [Democracy Docket, accessed [5/22/26](#)]

### *Fake Electors*

**2025: Under Swoboda’s leadership, the Arizona GOP called on AG Kris Mayes to drop a legal pursuit to reinstate the indictments against 11 fake electors.** “The state Court of Appeals has refused to reinstate the indictments against 11 fake electors and others who Attorney General Kris Mayes contends were part of a scheme to overturn the 2020 presidential race. In a brief order Monday, Presiding Judge Kent Cattani said he and two of his colleagues considered the request by Mayes to overturn a trial court ruling that grand jurors were not given all the information they needed before they handed up the indictments. But he said the trio decided not to step in. The decision, unless overturned by the Arizona Supreme Court, would mean Mayes would need to start all over again and present her case that there is sufficient evidence to charge the false electors with fraud, conspiracy and forgery in connection with signing and submitting documents to federal officials and Congress that Donald Trump had won the popular vote in Arizona and was entitled to the state's 11 electoral votes. In fact, Joe Biden won the state in 2020 by 10,457 votes. A spokesman for the Attorney General's Office said no decision had been made on whether to appeal. But the Arizona Republican Party, citing the appellate ruling, already is calling on Mayes to drop ‘this politically motivated case.’” [Arizona Daily Star, 9/22/25]

- **Swoboda said Mayes should “stop wasting time and taxpayer resources on partisan lawfare.”** “Gina Swoboda, who chairs the state GOP, said the Democratic attorney general should ‘stop wasting time and taxpayer resources on partisan lawfare.’ ‘Five years later, Kris Mayes is still fixated on 2020 while violent crime, fentanyl trafficking, and border chaos threaten our communities every single day,’ Swoboda said in a written statement. ‘This obsession is not justice it's politics.’ Swoboda pointed out that similar cases filed in other states have faltered. [Arizona Daily Star, 9/22/25]
- **Swoboda: “Five years later, Kris Mayes is still fixated on 2020 while violent crime, fentanyl trafficking, and border chaos threaten our communities every single day.”** “Gina Swoboda, who chairs the state GOP, said the Democratic attorney general should ‘stop wasting time and taxpayer resources on partisan lawfare.’ ‘Five years later, Kris Mayes is still fixated on 2020 while violent crime, fentanyl trafficking, and border chaos threaten our communities every single day,’ Swoboda said in a written statement. ‘This obsession is not justice it's politics.’ Swoboda pointed out that similar cases filed in other states have faltered. [Arizona Daily Star, 9/22/25]
- **Swoboda said “This obsession is not justice it's politics,” pointing out that similar cases filed in other states have faltered.** “Gina Swoboda, who chairs the state GOP, said the Democratic attorney general should ‘stop wasting time and taxpayer resources on partisan

lawfare.’ ‘Five years later, Kris Mayes is still fixated on 2020 while violent crime, fentanyl trafficking, and border chaos threaten our communities every single day,’ Swoboda said in a written statement. ‘This obsession is not justice it's politics.’ Swoboda pointed out that similar cases filed in other states have faltered. [Arizona Daily Star, 9/22/25]

## EXTREME VIEWS

### LGBTQ

**Swoboda said it was “devastating” that transgender people are afraid, but said restricting girls sports was to protect women, not attack transgender people.** “SWOBODA: I think we have to listen to everybody. I read an article or I just saw something, and it was talking about that, like transgender people are afraid. And that's devastating. No one should be afraid in their country. And I would tell you that from my perspective, I think some of that is they're afraid because they think people are trying to do things that they're not trying to do. I, Gina, do not think that restricting girls sports to girls is an attack on transgender people. I think it's protecting women. I think girls and women have fought very hard to even have sports. And, and I'm old enough to remember when we were fighting for women to have their own spaces. And there is no discussion about that anymore. But this, this is a great example of that. I do not see it as an attack. I see it as a defense of this group. So we're right. This is perfect. We're looking at it completely differently, and we have to listen and talk about it. I think maybe people would hear that and go, oh, you're just trying to protect this group. You're not trying to stop these people from, from feeling safe or free to be who they are.” [KJZZ, [3/27/25](#)]

### Misinformation

**Swoboda implied that the media should not be “defining facts” and argued that “silencing misinformation was “infantilizing people.”** “GILGER: Right. So, so the, the question, the response to that right is, is about misinformation. About like, you know ... SWOBODA: See, that word itself is problematic. GILGER: Is it? Why? I mean, like as a, as a journalist, I'm a believer in first First Amendment rights, right. But do we need to say this is true and this is not. SWOBODA: That you're you're defining facts that are, and then we find out they weren't facts. So if the government and the media, right, which is more powerful for a reason, that's why you have that in, in number one, right. We need you to protect our ability to hear everything. And that's my point. If the media and the government intervene because they say these people cannot possibly make their own decisions based on seeing all of the information and everyone's opinion, we have to protect them from themselves. By silencing misinformation, you are infantilizing the people. And that's not how this country is built. And once you do that now people will stop listening to you. And that's exactly what's happening now.” [KJZZ, [3/27/25](#)]

## AFFILIATED GROUPS & ALLIES

### Committee On Election Integrity

**Swoboda chaired the Committee on Election Integrity, which is affiliated with the RNC.** “Besides being the former state party chair, Swoboda chairs the Committee on Election Integrity, which is affiliated with the Republican National Committee. Swoboda worked from 2018 to 2020 in the Arizona Secretary of State's Office, which oversees elections. She served under two secretaries of state – Republican Michele Reagan and Democrat Katie Hobbs, who's now Arizona governor. In July, Swoboda



became a senior policy adviser for the Arizona House Federalism, Military Affairs and Elections Committee.” [Center Square, 10/27/25]

**Politico: Swoboda’s “group has continued to spread claims about voting discrepancies and published millions of voters’ names, birthdates and addresses.”** “In Arizona, Gina Swoboda, a former Trump campaign official who runs the Voter Reference Foundation, is heading the effort. Her group has continued to spread claims about voting discrepancies and published millions of voters’ names, birthdates and addresses.” [Politico, 8/2/22]

#### Restoration Action Inc / Voter Reference Foundation

**As of 2025, Swoboda was the executive director of the Voter Reference Foundation, a subsidiary of the nonprofit Restoration Action Inc – a project of billionaire Richard ‘Dick’ Uihlein that promotes election reform based on Republican concerns.** “Swoboda’s the executive director of the Voter Reference Foundation, a subsidiary of the nonprofit Restoration Action Inc. That’s a project of billionaire Richard ‘Dick’ Uihlein that promotes election reform based on Republican concerns. American Oversight, a liberal watchdog group, disparages her work as providing a ‘resource for voter-fraud activists.’” [Arizona Republic, 1/25/25]

**NYT: Swoboda “runs a nonprofit group that has falsely claimed to have found huge discrepancies in voting records in a number of states.”** “Gina Swoboda, who directed election-day integrity operations in Arizona for Mr. Trump in 2020 and runs a nonprofit group that has falsely claimed to have found huge discrepancies in voting records in a number of states, was picked to replace Jeff DeWit, who stepped down as chairman on Wednesday. [...] An investigation by the independent journalism website ProPublica concluded that the nonprofit where she is executive director, the Voter Reference Foundation, is closely linked to a super PAC largely financed by the billionaire Dick Uihlein, a major Trump supporter.” [New York Times, [1/27/24](#)]

**NYT: Swoboda’s nonprofit “made unsupported claims that it found irregularities in voter rolls across the country.”** “Election deniers directly involved in the 2020 scheme aren’t the only ones playing important roles in the state and national parties. The Arizona Republican Party is chaired by Gina Swoboda, a party activist whose nonprofit has made unsupported claims that it found irregularities in voter rolls across the country.” [New York Times, 4/29/24]

**Politico: Swoboda’s “group has continued to spread claims about voting discrepancies and published millions of voters’ names, birthdates and addresses.”** “In Arizona, Gina Swoboda, a former Trump campaign official who runs the Voter Reference Foundation, is heading the effort. Her group has continued to spread claims about voting discrepancies and published millions of voters’ names, birthdates and addresses.” [Politico, 8/2/22]

#### President Donald Trump

**Swoboda was the Trump campaign’s director of operations on election day in 2020.** “The other candidate, the former chair of the Arizona Republican party, Gina Swoboda, was the Trump campaign’s director of operations on election day in 2020. She claimed in a lawsuit that was dismissed for lack of evidence that more than 1 million ineligible voters may have been on the rolls.” [The Guardian, [5/3/26](#)]

**Steve Bannon's WarRoom: Swoboda "a staunch supporter of the Trump Revolution and the America First movement".** "Gina Swoboda, Chairwoman of the Arizona Republicans, appeared on Tuesday's WarRoom and delivered a no-holds-barred critique of establishment Republicans, who she claims have betrayed the party's core values for decades. Swoboda, a staunch supporter of the Trump Revolution and the America First movement, made it clear that the time has come to reclaim the GOP from what she calls 'pretend Republicans' who have been grifting off the party." [War Room, [8/13/24](#)]

**KJZZ: Swoboda was a "Trump loyalist, GOP activist and sometimes election questioner".** "She's a former elections official, an activist who then ushered the state party to major wins up and down the ballot in the 2024 elections, including a decisive Trump win here. But Swoboda, a Trump loyalist, GOP activist and sometimes election questioner, has not always been a Republican. In fact, she embodies the political horse you were seeing come up so often in politics today. She grew up a Democrat and has bounced between supporting Clinton to the Tea Party, even to liking what Bernie Sanders has had to say at one point, until Trump entered the picture." [KJZZ, [3/27/25](#)]

**January 2026: Before announcing her campaign for secretary of state, Swoboda was a candidate for AZ's 1st Congressional district and received Trump's endorsement.** President Trump shook up the Republican primary for the highly competitive 1st Congressional District with dual endorsements to Gina Swoboda and Jay Feely. Why it matters: Several high-profile candidates are vying for the GOP nomination in the open Phoenix and Scottsdale-based swing district, which could help determine which party wins control of the U.S. House in November. State of play: Trump announced the dual endorsement on Truth Social on Tuesday, calling Feely and Swoboda 'Highly Respected America First Patriots.' 'Both fierce advocates of Make America Great Again, Jay and Gina have been with us from the very beginning, and either one would be an incredible Representative,' Trump said." [Axios, [1/6/26](#)]

- **Arizona Republic: "It wasn't immediately clear whether Trump would continue to endorse Swoboda after she switched races."** "It wasn't immediately clear whether Trump would continue to endorse Swoboda after she switched races. Swoboda and her political adviser didn't immediately return requests for comment. The announcement continues an uncertain trajectory for Swoboda, an elections activist whose time at the helm of the state GOP was marked by Republican electoral victories and clashes with the conservative heavyweight group Turning Point and some other grassroots activists." [Arizona Republic, [2/13/26](#)]

**2024: Swoboda was endorsed by Trump to run for chair of the AZ Republican Party.** "Gina Swoboda is one of the political stories that helps to define the Trump era in Arizona. She was a political newcomer when she was endorsed by President Donald Trump to run for chair of the Arizona Republican Party in early 2024." [KJZZ, [3/27/25](#)]

- **"Boosted by a successful 2024 election, Arizona Republican Party Chairwoman Gina Swoboda won the endorsement of President Donald Trump for her run for re-election".** "Boosted by a successful 2024 election, Arizona Republican Party Chairwoman Gina Swoboda won the endorsement of President Donald Trump for her run for re-election at the Party's Convention in January. The President made his endorsement clear at Turning Point Action's AMFEST in Phoenix on Sunday. The news was greeted positively by Republicans across the state who were glad to be back to the party's winning ways." [Arizona Daily Independent, [12/22/24](#)]

Kari Lake

**Swoboda was an adviser to Kari Lake's unsuccessful 2022 gubernatorial campaign.** "Swoboda is a former elections coordinator for Trump and adviser to Kari Lake's unsuccessful 2022 gubernatorial campaign. She won her first term as state GOP chair in a drama-filled meeting last year." [Arizona Republic, 1/25/25]

- **Swoboda was Election Integrity Director for Lake's campaign.** "Swoboda was the former president's 2020 Arizona election day operations director and since then has led efforts to unearth voting irregularities around the country with Voter Reference Foundation. She was also 'election integrity director' for Lake's failed 2022 campaign to be governor. Lake repeatedly claimed the election was stolen from her, although courts rejected her claims of fraud. Swoboda won the vote on Saturday night, but not without a difficult evening for Lake." [Daily Mail, 1/29/24]

**Lake called Swoboda's election as state GOP leader a "massive victory" for Lake's campaign and Trump's campaign.** "Lake, who is running for Sen. Kyrsten Sinema's seat, congratulated Swoboda and called her win a 'massive victory' for her campaign and Trump's. 'Gina is a national leader in election law. She is a grassroots hero, is battle tested and a woman of great integrity,' Lake said in a statement. 'Gina understands that the White House and Senate Majority —and frankly, the survival of our Republic — runs through State 48.'" [Associated Press, 1/28/24]

- **Lake said Swoboda was a "national leader in election law."** "Lake, who is running for Sen. Kyrsten Sinema's seat, congratulated Swoboda and called her win a 'massive victory' for her campaign and Trump's. 'Gina is a national leader in election law. She is a grassroots hero, is battle tested and a woman of great integrity,' Lake said in a statement. 'Gina understands that the White House and Senate Majority —and frankly, the survival of our Republic — runs through State 48.'" [Associated Press, 1/28/24]
- **Lake nominated Swoboda for Chair.** "Kari Lake, a far-right candidate for U.S. Senate and close ally of Mr. Trump who had a central role in Mr. DeWit's fall, took to the stage on Saturday to nominate Ms. Swoboda. But she was met with a din of boos and heckling from the crowd, an apparent rebuff to her involvement in the scandal." [New York Times, [1/27/24](#)]
- **Swoboda's predecessor, Jeff DeWit, resigned after Lake allegedly leaked a recording in which he told Lake "powerful people" would give her money or a job if she did not run for Senate.** "Mr. DeWit resigned after a leaked voice recording surfaced on Tuesday in which he told Ms. Lake that 'very powerful people' would give her money or a comfortable job if she would sit out the Senate contest. In the recording, Ms. Lake, who ran unsuccessfully for governor in 2022 and embraced Mr. Trump's false claims about the 2020 election, was heard telling Mr. DeWit, 'That's immoral — I couldn't look at myself in the mirror.' Mr. DeWit claimed on Wednesday that Ms. Lake had released the recording of the conversation, which he said occurred at Ms. Lake's house more than 10 months ago, and that it had been selectively edited. He added that he was resigning because Ms. Lake had threatened to release a second damaging recording if he did not resign." [New York Times, [1/27/24](#)]

**After Republican lawyers left the RNC's "election integrity" operation in Arizona, Kari Lake's spokesperson said the Lake campaign had "full confidence" in Swoboda to "lead the Election Integrity efforts in Arizona."** "NBC News is reporting that more than a dozen Republican lawyers in Arizona — the ones who were on Team Election Integrity in 2020 and 2022 — are not on board for the

coming inevitable round of lawsuits. [...] NBC reports that Kory Langhofer recently resigned as the chief legal counsel for Trump and the Republican National Committee's 'election integrity' operation in Arizona. Meanwhile, all of the other usual GOP election attorneys are keeping their distance. The situation is so bad that the RNC has had to import California attorney Harmeet Dhillon to Arizona for the final weeks of the campaign. [...] 'The Kari Lake campaign has full confidence in Harmeet Dhillon and (Arizona GOP Chairwoman) Gina Swoboda to lead the Election Integrity efforts in Arizona and we are thrilled with this outcome,' Lake's senior spinmeister, Caroline Wren, told NBC News." [Arizona Republic, 10/16/24]