



Representing Arizona's 7th District

## Congressional Services



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## Congressman Ruben Gallego

Congressman Ruben Gallego is the son of Hispanic immigrants, a veteran, and a community leader. He was the first in his family to attend college, graduating from Harvard University with a degree in International Relations.

• He later joined the Marine Corps, serving in Iraq with the well-known combat unit Lima 3/25.



## Congressman Ruben Gallego

Congressman Gallego has always been motivated by the same thing: a real appreciation of what families in Arizona are going through and a desire to help improve their lives.

Congressman Gallego currently serves on the House Armed Services Committee and the Natural Resources Committee. He chairs the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples within Natural Resources.



# Arizona's 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

- Arizona's Seventh Congressional District is centered around the City of Phoenix and is fully contained within Maricopa County. The district includes Downtown, Central, West and South Phoenix, as well as Tolleson, Guadalupe and part of Glendale.
- Some of Phoenix's most recognizable landmarks are located within the seventh district, including the State Capitol, South Mountain, Sky Harbor Airport, Talking Stick Arena and Chase Field, making the district home to both the Phoenix Suns and Arizona Diamondbacks.



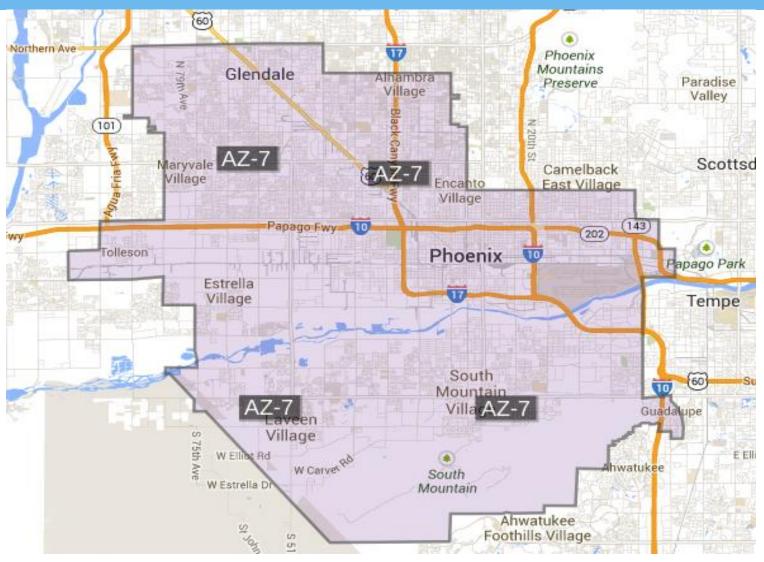
# Arizona's 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

 The district is the most diverse in Arizona. Nearly 64% of the residents of District 7 are Hispanic and nearly 10% are African American. Additionally, 25,000 military veterans and many refugee communities call the 7<sup>th</sup> District home.

• Ruben previously represented large portions of the district while in the state House of Representatives. Prior to that, he served a significant part of the district as Chief of Staff for Phoenix City Councilman Michael Nowakowski.



#### District Boundaries





## Constituent Services Overview

"Members and their staffs help constituents deal with administrative agencies by acting as **facilitators**, **ombudsmen**, and in some cases, **advocates**. In addition to serving individual constituents, congressional offices include **liaison** activities between the federal government and local governments, businesses, communities, and nonprofit organizations."

- House of Representatives Ethics Guidelines



### **Constituent Services** Overview

#### Federal Agencies:

- Dept. Veterans Affairs (VA) Dept. of Education
- Social Security Admin
- DHS (USCIS, ICE, CBP)
- **IRS**
- Dept. of State
- Dept. of Defense (DOD)

- Dept. of Justice (DOJ)
- Dept. of Housing and **Urban Development (HUD)**
- Dept. of Transportation
- ...and many more



## Constituent Services Overview

#### When are cases opened in our office?

- Only on behalf of the Member's constituents (i.e. Congressman Gallego can only work for residents of Congressional District 07)
- When a constituent has filed an initial application/dispute with a federal agency
- Once the constituent has authorized the Congressional office to inquire on their behalf by signing a Privacy Release



# Example: Immigration Assistance

An elderly constituent qualified to become a lawful permanent resident (LPR), but she needed to submit a medical exam to USCIS first. Due to language and income barriers, she didn't submit the exam on time and was set to be referred to ICE for removal. We worked with the family and USCIS to rectify the situation and ensure that the exam was submitted. She is now a lawful permanent resident.

\*Immigration services include visas, adjustment of status (LPR), family reunification applications, DACA renewal cases, stay of deportations, etc.



## Example: Veterans Affairs

A constituent couldn't get a timely appointment with the VA Medical Center, and needed a wheelchair.

He contacted our office and within a few months, his car was fitted for a new lift and he was given a new wheelchair.



\*Veteran cases can include issues with the VA Medical Center, Service-Connected Disability Benefits, GI bill benefits, etc.



# Example: Social Security



After waiting for over a year to obtain a hearing, a constituent contacted Congressman Gallego for assistance with his Social Security disability claim.

By working with the Social Security Administration, the Congressman assisted with an expedited hearing that resulted in \$40,775 in back pay.

<sup>\*</sup>Social Security cases include questions on initial disability applications with the field office and appeals, as well as retirement and spousal benefits.

# Example: Medicare / Health Insurance

A Phoenix resident and Medicare recipient contacted our office because he and his wife needed diabetic supplies, and they were forced to share test strips when they couldn't get enough to get through the month.

The Congressman's staff contacted CMS, and the couple received authorization for additional test strips that ensured they wouldn't run out.

<sup>\*</sup>Health insurance cases can include ACA coverage questions, Medicare benefits, and related AHCCCS coverage.



## Additional Requests

- U.S. Postal Service issues
- Housing and Foreclosure Prevention
- Student Loan Repayment Status Inquiries
- Indian Affairs and Indian Health Benefits
- Federal Employee benefits and retirement (OPM)



To better serve the constituents of AZ Congressional District 7, the Congressman has established Community Office Hour sites where constituents can work with a member of the staff to resolve federal agency issues or initiate an inquiry. Community Office Hours allow constituents to more easily access services in their own neighborhoods.

Community Office Hours are offered at several locations throughout the district on a monthly basis.



#### **More District Services:**

- Letters of Support for grants from federal agencies
- Requests for a meeting or for the Congressman to attend events
- Certificates for honorees or awardees, signed by the Congressman (for staff, community members, etc.)
- Requests for a U.S. flag flown over the U.S. Capitol
- Requests for tours of prominent DC sites (White House, Capitol, Pentagon, etc.)
- College-level Internships (in DC and in district)
- Military Academy Nominations



## Learn more at our website:



rubengallego.house.gov



#### Contact our Office

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Facebook: Rep. Ruben Gallego

We look forward to serving you!