

# Arizona Legislative District 6 Overview

Arizona’s sixth legislative district is located in northern Arizona and is a larger, mostly rural district that includes the cities of Flagstaff and Sedona, along with smaller towns including Cottonwood, Holbrook, Show Low, Payson and Snowflake. It encompasses parts of four counties: Coconino, Gila, Navajo and Yavapai.

The district’s Democrats are the minority (30%), with a majority Republican (37%), but a large number of Independents (33%). It is mostly white, and one of the most competitive districts in Arizona. Last cycle, Felicia French, the Democrat in the house came within 577 votes of winning (a .4% margin).

## Demographics

Pop	Households	Over 65	White	Black	Latinx	Asian	Other
220,045	87,201	20.8%	74.0%	1.1%	15.2%	1.3%	8.4%

Median Income	Poverty	Un Employed	College	High School	No High School
\$48,331	17.0%	4.4%	40.4%	50.7%	15.2%

**Coconino County** has the largest share of the LD 6 vote at 45%, it’s home to the largest population center in the district, Flagstaff, and its outlying communities. The small towns of Winslow and Tusayan are also included, as is the Grand Canyon. Flagstaff is a mountain town and home to Northern Arizona University (NAU), and it is frequently regarded as one of the most liberal places in the state: this year, not a single Republican ran for City Council.

Voters care about the environment, education, and their hometown. The economy is largely tourism based. The rural areas of Coconino County are much more conservative, and relatively poor compared to Flagstaff. They rely heavily on Grand Canyon tourism. None of Coconino County’s extensive tribal lands are in LD 6, but many of the district’s towns border reservation lands (the Navajo Nation is 15 miles from Flagstaff).

**Yavapai County** has the second largest share of the LD 6 vote at about 30%. The LD 6 parts of Yavapai county include Sedona and the Verde Valley, which is a collection of small towns including Cottonwood, Clarkdale, Cornville, Jerome, and Camp Verde. The precincts in Yavapai County break about 50% Republican and 50% Democrat. The population skews older, white, and is largely retired—though there is a growing wine industry attracting and keeping younger folks in the area. Sedona is unique (home to the famous red rocks, vortexes, and healing crystals!). It’s also significantly wealthier than the rest of Yavapai County (and part of Sedona falls within Coconino County).

Two issues that are especially relevant in Yavapai are **local control** and **water**. Local control is an issue because the entire area, Sedona in particular, has been overrun by short term rentals (STRs), and yet the state legislature in AZ has preempted local municipalities from enacting any sort of regulation. Several, large developments have been proposed recently and all have met with outrage from residents. They live in this rural area for a reason and do not want it spoiled.

Water comes into play because it is unclear that Yavapai County has the water to support large developments, but it's also a particular concern because the Verde Valley includes the last navigable river in Arizona and the Verde River is BELOVED by Republicans, Democrats and Independents. Development is seen as a threat that will drain the Verde, and everyone is against that. Although there's a local sentiment that Democratic candidates can't get elected in Yavapai County, because the non-LD 6 portion of the county is, in fact very, conservative—most of the LD 6 towns have democrats in local office. Moreover, in 2018 Kyrsten Sinema won most of these precincts. It's an area that is changing politically.

**Gila County** has about 14% of the vote and three fourths of those votes are in Payson. It is a deeply conservative county. The Payson tea party is where the incumbents go to really let loose and fire up their base. Geographically it's isolated and the entire area is very rural. Gila county democrats tend to be concerned about education funding. Broadband access (or lack thereof) is an important local issue. The goal here is to get every last one democratic voter to the poll.

**Navajo County** has the smallest portion of the vote at about 12%. It is very rural and has a significant Mormon population. The largest town is Holbrook, which sits on the border of the Navajo Nation and also has a substantial Latinx population. It is very poor, and recently a mine closed, causing about a third of their economy to disappear. There are few jobs in Navajo County and most young people leave to find employment. Access to health care is one of their big issues with people having to travel to Flagstaff for medical care.