

**Vince Leach**  
**Arizona House District 11**



**Summary**

---

Campaign Biography

*Vince has been involved as a citizen activist in many areas of government, working on behalf of conservative causes. His experience ranges from work at the school board all the way up to County Government, the State Legislature, the Arizona Corporation Commission, and the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission. His passion for public service led him to run for an open State House seat in 2014 and he was elected by the people of LD11 in November 2014. He has served on many Republican campaigns during the 2010 and 2012 election cycles. He also served as Board member of the SaddleBrooke Two Property Owners organization. He is an active member of Catalina Foothills Church.*

*Vince is a graduate of the University of WI-St. Point with degrees in Political Science and History. He is a Vietnam era veteran. Vince has over thirty-five years of sales and executive business management experience in the national and international market place.*

*Vince and his wife, Charlene, natives of Wisconsin, live in SaddleBrooke, Arizona. His son, an engineer with a national firm, still resides in Wisconsin. [Campaign Biography, [Accessed 5/29/18](#)]*

## **ALEC Legislator of the Week Q&A – 5/29/18**

---

This Week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce Arizona Representative Vince Leach. Representative Leach's experience ranges from work on the school board all the way up to County Government, the State Legislature, the Arizona Corporation Commission, and the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission. His passion for public service led him to run for an open State House seat in 2014. Representative Leach is a Vietnam era veteran and has over thirty-five years of sales and executive business management experience in the national and international marketplace. Rep. Leach is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin- St. Point with degrees in Political Science and History. He and his wife Charlene are natives of Wisconsin and now live in SaddleBrooke, Arizona. His son, an engineer with a national firm, still resides in Wisconsin.

### **Why did you run for office?**

I moved to Arizona in 2009 with plans to retire off of investments in church bonds. There was just one problem: Arizona didn't permit individuals to purchase church bonds. I set out to change that law. First, I had to convince the Arizona Corporate Commission to surrender their jurisdiction on the issue. With that done, I next had to persuade the Arizona Legislature to consider the issue. It took three years, but I was finally able to get the Legislature and Governor to revise Arizona law to permit individuals to purchase church bonds. It wasn't easy, and it certainly wasn't fun, but the experience convinced me that one person can make a difference. While I didn't know it when I began the fight, it would be the beginning of my political career.

### **In your view, what is the biggest issue facing Arizona?**

Arizona's water management is undoubtedly the biggest issue facing the state. As the West continues to suffer through persistent drought, securing the state's water supply for the future is of critical importance. There's an old saying in Arizona that whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting over. It will be extremely difficult to reach consensus while balancing the needs of competing stakeholders and negotiating with other states, but Governor Ducey and the Arizona Legislature continue to work to that end.

### **If you could "wave your magic wand," what would you like to see immediately implemented in Arizona?**

I would love to turn over much of the federal land in Arizona to state control. Over 80% of Arizona is public land, and over half of that is owned by the federal government. When that

much of a state's land is off limits to commercial development and property taxes, it poses significant challenges to state government.

**Do you serve on any committees, if so which committees and why?**

I serve on 5 Standing Committees: Appropriations Vice Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee on Public Safety, Infrastructure and Natural Resources Chairman, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Member, and Ways and Means Vice-Chair. I also serve on 2 Statutory Committees: Joint Committee on Capital Review Member and Joint Legislative Budget Committee Member.

**What project or law are you most proud of?**

I passed a couple of bills this session that protect private and charter schools from roadblocks put up by cities and school districts. HB 2461 prohibits cities or counties from using zoning regulations to discriminate against private schools. We had an instance in Arizona of a city requiring private schools to operate on five acres or more of land but only required public schools to operate on one or more acre. HB 2460 prohibits school districts from selling or leasing a vacant building for a financial offer that is less than an offer from a charter or private school. Arizona had a school district accepting bids for unused school buildings that are lower than the bids from private and charter schools simply because the school district didn't want to have to compete against other schools – not only does that shortchange students but it shortchanges taxpayers.

**What are some takeaways from your success that other legislators can apply to leading difficult reforms?**

My advice is to become totally invested as a bill sponsor, use all resources available, talk to stakeholders, educate your colleagues, don't rush the process and, most importantly, be persistent.

**How has ALEC helped you as a legislator?**

Not only does ALEC give me a sense of how lawmakers in other states are tackling similar problems, but their research and model policy gives me confidence as I draft and move legislation. Interaction with legislators from across the states is extremely helpful.

**Can you share a fun fact about yourself that's not in your official bio?**

I served as a youth and high school soccer official for over 18 years.

[Named ALEC Legislator of the Week, 5/29/2018](#)

**ALEC membership/ties**

---

- [ALEC "Scholarships" Gift \\$500+ in 2014](#)
- Signed on to ALEC SALT Letter to Congress in October 2016
- [Attended ALEC's Denver Conference in 2017](#)

- [Named ALEC Legislator of the Week, 5/29/2018](#)

## Other Hits

---

### **Representative Vince Leach opposes clean energy because “Arizona's Constitution is not for sale”**

According to US News, Representative Vince Leach opposes a plan for clean energy. Clean Energy for a Healthy Arizona is pushing a ballot initiative that would ask voters to approve a constitutional amendment requiring half the state's electricity to come from renewable sources by 2030. Republican lawmakers and the state's largest utility, Arizona Public Service Co., had condemned Clean Energy for having ties to California billionaire and environmentalist Tom Steyer. They also said such a requirement would cause electricity rates to dramatically increase, a contention clean energy advocates say has no merit. In response to the proposed ballot initiative, APS worked with bill sponsor Rep. Vince Leach, R-Tucson. He said on the House floor Thursday that lawmakers must stand up against wealthy, out-of-state interests to defend the state's Constitution. "Arizona's Constitution is not for sale," he said. "Take your money and go someplace else." Rep. Ken Clark, D-Phoenix, scoffed at the contention that the concern was wealthy out-of-staters. He cited the billionaire Koch brothers and current Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos as examples of big financial supporters of Arizona Republicans and GOP-initiatives" [US News, [3/23/2018](#)]

**Representative Vince Leach voted to allow dark money groups to hide their donors.** According to Tuscon.com, "On a 33-25 vote, the Republican-controlled House voted to prohibit local governments from requiring organizations declared to be tax-exempt by the IRS from registering as political action committees, even if they are putting money into races. It would preclude any requirement that these so-called "dark money" groups identify donors. And it would bar local governments from auditing the books of these groups or requiring them to respond to subpoenas, even if there were allegations they were violating campaign-finance laws. Rep. Vince Leach, R-Tucson, who has championed the measure, conceded that no Arizona community has sought to impose such reporting requirements on nonprofit organizations. Instead, he argued, it was designed to get out in front of the issue before some community could approve measures like one that exists in Santa Fe, New Mexico." [Tuscon.com, [2/13/2018](#)]

### **Representative Vince Leach sponsored a bill that would limit Arizona's citizen initiative rights.**

According to AZ Central, "... a package of bills designed to rein in the century-old initiative process enshrined in the Arizona Constitution at statehood. Opponents say the moves would undercut the power of the people to shape laws, and run counter to the citizen initiative process, while proponents argue lawmakers need the flexibility to fix unforeseen problems that might arise from a ballot measure. The measures now move to the Senate for consideration. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Vince Leach, R-Tucson, argued the move would reduce fraud because circulators wouldn't have an incentive to boost their signature totals possibly by making up names. Democrats saw a different motivation. "We are telling the public: We want to make it more difficult for you to get something on the ballot," Rep. Tony Navarrete, D-Phoenix, said as he voted "no." [AZ Central, [2/13/2017](#)]