

# [***Sinema Facing Senate Challenge By Progressive Democrat Gallego After Leaving Party***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:67C8-9T11-DXVP-50CJ-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Length:** 493 words

**Byline:** Nicholas Reimann, Forbes Staff

**Highlight:** Gallego is reportedly the first prominent Democrat planning to run for the seat, which Sinema might still seek as an independent.

**Body**

**Topline**

Progressive Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.) is set to become the first notable Democrat to announce he s running for Sen. Kyrsten Sinema s (I-Ariz.) seat in 2024, according to multiple  reports, setting up what could be a rare and highly competitive three-candidate contest should Sinema decide to run again after leaving the Democratic Party.

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Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.) attends a news conference on Capitol Hill on June 30, 2020, in Washington.

Tasos Katopodis/Getty Images

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**Key Facts**

Gallego is reportedly set to make a formal announcement Monday.

Sinema was elected to the Senate as a Democrat in 2018, but became an independentlast month after she and Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) frustrated fellow Democrats in the previous Congress by refusing to change filibuster rules, stonewalling several top pieces of legislation.

Sinema has painted herself as a centrist, but Gallego is an outspoken progressive who has voicedsupport for Medicare for All and raising the federal minimum wage to $15 an hour.

Sinema has not said whether or not she ll seek reelection in 2024.

Gallego s office did not immediately respond to a request for comment from**Forbes**regarding his plans.

**Key Background**

Sinema remains a member of the Senate Democratic Caucus and consistently votesin line with President Joe Biden s positions, but her opposition to eliminating the filibuster and refusal to support a sweeping spending bill left her alienated from most other Democrats during the first half of Biden s term. She and Manchin effectively killed the Build Back Betterspending package in late 2021 and early 2022, citing concerns about the multi-trillion-dollar social spending proposal making inflation even worse. Another major Democratic legislative priority died early last year when Sinema and Manchin voted against eliminating the 60-vote threshold to break the filibuster in order to pass a national voting rights bill. The Arizona Democratic Party censured herearly last year over the decision. Sinema said her move to leave the Democratic Party was a natural extension of her votes in office, claiming she was joining the growing number of Arizonans who reject party ***politics***.

**Contra**

Rep. Greg Stanton (D-Ariz.) saidThursday that he will not run for the Senate seat.

**Surprising Fact**

No prominent Republicans have announced they re running for Arizona s seat in 2024, but several hard-right figures like Rep. Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.), 2022 Republican gubernatorial nominee Kari Lake and 2022 Senate nominee Blake Masters are said to be considering runs.

**Further Reading**

Sinema Won t Support Eliminating Filibuster Effectively Killing Democrats Voting Rights Bill(Forbes)

Arizona Sen. Sinema Leaving Democratic Party, Becoming An Independent(Forbes)

Here s Why Democrats $3.5 Trillion Budget Plan Could Impact Every Single American(Forbes)

Kyrsten Sinema Censured By Arizona Democratic Party Over Her Refusal To Change Filibuster Rules(Forbes)

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