

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 16, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the Certificate of Election received from the Honorable Adrian Fontes, Arizona Secretary of State, indicating that, at the Special Election held on September 23, 2025, the Honorable Adelita Grijalva was duly elected Representative in Congress for the Seventh Congressional District, State of Arizona.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,
KEVIN F. McCUMBER,

Clerk.

Enclosure.

STATE OF ARIZONA
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

I, Adrian Fontes, Secretary of State and Keeper of the Great Seal, do hereby certify that, at the 2025 Special General Election held in the State of Arizona on the 23rd day of September 2025, Adelita Grijalva was duly elected to the office of U.S. Representative in Congress—District No. 7 in and for the State of Arizona, as confirmed by the Official State Canvass on file in this office. As such, Adelita Grijalva is elected to serve as a Member of the 119th Congress to fill the remainder of the term that began at noon (EST) on January 3, 2025.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona. Done at the Capitol in Phoenix this 14th day of October 2025.

ADRIAN FONTES,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

□ 1610

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE
ADELITA S. GRIJALVA, OF ARIZONA,
AS A MEMBER OF THE
HOUSE

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect and the members of the Arizona delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will please raise her right hand.

Mrs. GRIJALVA appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 119th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE
ADELITA S. GRIJALVA TO THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to congratulate our newest colleague and our fellow Arizonan on her swearing in as the Representative for Arizona's Seventh Congressional District, Congresswoman ADELITA GRIJALVA.

Congresswoman GRIJALVA has concentrated her career on issues advocating for students and supporting families.

As she follows in her late father's footsteps—and, boy, those are some footsteps, especially with those bolo ties, wow—I have no doubt she will bring to the Halls of Congress the same energy that has defined her years of public service.

As dean of the Arizona congressional delegation, I wish to congratulate Congresswoman GRIJALVA and welcome her to the United States House of Representatives.

I now yield to the gentleman from Mr. Arizona (Mr. STANTON), my friend.

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman GOSAR, the new dean of Arizona's State delegation. It has been a minute since we have all been together on the House floor. I am looking for cobwebs around here.

As dean, Congressman GOSAR replaces the late Congressman Raul Grijalva, one of the most impactful leaders in Arizona history.

Now, with great pride, I rise today to do something we have waited 50 long days to do—exactly 49 days too long—and that is to introduce our colleague from Arizona, Congresswoman ADELITA GRIJALVA.

Since September 23, the people of Arizona have been waiting for this day, and the excuses for the delay have changed seemingly daily. First they said they need an election certificate, though one isn't required. Then they wanted to make sure there was enough pomp and circumstance. Then we were informed about a nonexistent Pelosi precedent.

At one point, the Speaker went on television and said, "Bless her heart. She's a Representative-elect. She doesn't know how things work around here."

Bless his heart, because here is how it should work. Let's call it the Adelita Grijalva precedent: When the American people vote, this Chamber respects their will and seats them immediately. Politics should never come into play.

Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman GRIJALVA is a native Tucsonan, the granddaughter of a bracero who came here from Mexico. She is the youngest woman ever elected to the Tucson Unified School Board, serving 20 years, then a Pima County supervisor, fighting for working families, affordable housing, and early childhood education. She brings that same fight to Congress.

The people of Arizona's Seventh District placed their trust in her, and today that trust is rewarded.

Her first act of Congress will be a powerful one. She will be the 218th and

final signature on the discharge petition to force the Trump administration to release the Epstein files, delivering long overdue justice and accountability for hundreds of victims abused by rich and powerful men.

She is a smart, principled fighter through and through.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to welcome and introduce to this Chamber Congresswoman ADELITA GRIJALVA.

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend, Congressman STANTON, for that kind introduction and to the entire Democratic delegation from Arizona and the delegation that stood here with me that has supported me throughout this process.

I rise today, the proud granddaughter of a bracero, a hardworking Mexican immigrant who came to this country for a better life, and I stand as the proud daughter of a U.S. Congressman, a man who spent his entire life fighting for justice, equity, and dignity for the most vulnerable.

From working as a vaquero to serving in Congress in just a single generation, that is the promise of this country. That is the America I want to raise my three beautiful children in—Adelina, Raul, and Joaquin. They, along with my amazing husband, Sol, and my wonderful Mama Ramona are here with me today.

"Thank you for your support and your love."

"Muchas gracias por su apoyo y tu amor."

Thank you to "the people," "la gente" of southern Arizona for making history, electing me as the first Latina, the first Chicana from Arizona to ever go to Congress.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

"This is a historic moment for our community. It is an honor to be the first Latina to represent Arizona in Congress. Let me assure you, while I am the first, I will not be the last."

"Este momento es histórico para nuestra comunidad. Es un honor ser la primera latina en representar Arizona en el Congreso, y les aseguro que aunque soy la primera, no sere la última."

The SPEAKER. The gentlewoman from Arizona will provide a translation of her remarks to the Clerk.

Mrs. GRIJALVA. While we celebrate this moment, today our American promise is under serious threat. Basic freedoms are under attack. Healthcare premiums are skyrocketing. Babies are being ripped away from their parents by masked agents. We can and must do better.

What is most concerning is not what this administration has done, but what the majority in this body has failed to do: Hold Trump accountable as the co-equal branch of government that we are.

It has been 50 days since the people of Arizona's Seventh Congressional District elected me to represent them; 50

days that over 800,000 Arizonans have been left without access to the basic services that every constituent deserves.

This is an abuse of power. One individual should not be able to unilaterally obstruct the swearing in of a duly elected Member of Congress for political reasons.

Our democracy only works when everyone has a voice. This includes the millions of people across the country who have experienced violence and exploitation, including Liz Stein and Jessica Michaels, both survivors of Jeffrey Epstein's abuse. They are here in the gallery with us this evening. I thank them for being here.

Just this morning, House Democrats released more emails showing that Trump knew more about Epstein's abuses than he previously acknowledged. It is past time for Congress to restore its role as a check and balance on this administration and fight for we, the American people.

We need to fight for our immigrant communities and veterans. We need to stand up for our public schools, children, and educators. We need to respect Tribal sovereignty and our environment. We need to stand up for LGBTQ+ rights because that is what the American people expect us to do, fight for them.

That is why I will sign the discharge petition right now to release the Epstein files, because justice cannot wait another day.

"Forward my people. Thank you very much."

"Adelante mi gente. Muchas gracias."

□ 1620

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath of office to the gentlewoman from Arizona, the whole number of the House is 433.

□ 1630

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 4405, EPSTEIN FILES TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4405) to require the Attorney General to release all documents and records in possession of the Department of Justice relating to Jeffrey Epstein, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request

unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leadership.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. BURCHETT. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, we Republicans are requesting this unanimous consent.

Are Democrats objecting to this request?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds the gentleman from Tennessee that, as indicated by section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, it is not a proper parliamentary inquiry to ask the Chair to indicate which side of the aisle has failed under the Speaker's guidelines to clear a unanimous-consent request, as was stated.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5371, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 873 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 873

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 5371) making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the ranking member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, last night, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule providing for the con-

sideration of the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 5371, the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026, and I am happy to say that it will end the government shutdown.

The rule provides 1 hour of debate on the motion equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations, or their designees.

I rise in support of this rule and the underlying legislation. This bill delivers on our commitment to the American people by finally reopening the government. It delivers on the promises that we have made to our veterans, our farmers, and our taxpayers.

Let's be honest: This government shutdown was completely avoidable. On September 19, House Republicans passed a continuing resolution that funded critical services and would have given us time to negotiate long-term solutions. It was a yes vote to keep the government open and to pay our troops, air traffic controllers, and Federal employees.

Every Democrat but one voted no. Every Democrat but one voted to shut the government down. This is not opinion, and this is not messaging like Democrats keep trying to spin it. It is a fact that anyone can check the vote record. Democrats voted against a non-partisan, clean CR free of poison pills that would have continued Biden-level funding and kept the government open for negotiations.

Democrats chose politics over people. They refused to support a common-sense measure, and American families paid the price.

This bill restores stability to our national nutritional programs, which were put under unnecessary strain during the shutdown. It will fund WIC and SNAP, ensuring that low-income mothers and their babies have access to healthy and nutritious foods.

These programs should not have been used as a bargaining chip during the shutdown. Republicans are stepping up to protect Americans and ensure these programs remain stable and funded. That is what responsible governance looks like.

There are three appropriations bills included in the CR, put here to jumpstart our appropriations process.

H.R. 5371 delivers for rural America. It provides funding for the Farm Service Agency to support our Nation's farmers and ranchers. It invests in rural development programs, including funding affordable housing rental assistance for low-income families and seniors in rural communities. These investments strengthen our local economies and ensure that rural communities are not left behind.

□ 1640

For our troops, this bill demonstrates our dedication to veteran medical care, including funding for