# Ruben Gallego vies for Arizona Senate seat in bid for political middle ground



U.S. Representative Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.) is campaigning for a Senate seat in Arizona, targeting a political middle ground in a state known for its moderate and independent voters. On January 28, 2023, Gallego, a former member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, announced his candidacy. He faces Republican challenger Kari Lake, a former TV anchor aligned with Donald Trump.

With incumbent Senator Kyrsten Sinema opting not to seek reelection, Gallego has expressed a desire for her endorsement. His campaign strategy includes addressing concerns over border control and emphasizing his support for abortion rights, contrasting sharply with Lake's stance on these issues.

Gallego's political transformation and efforts to connect with a broad electorate reflect his attempt to emulate the success of centrist candidates like Senators Mark Kelly and Kyrsten Sinema in past elections. His personal narrative as a Marine veteran and son of immigrants forms a significant part of his pitch to voters.

In related political developments, Angela Alsobrooks secured the Democratic nomination for a U.S. Senate seat in Maryland. Alsobrooks’s win represents a significant step towards increasing the representation of Black women in the Senate. If victorious in November, she could join Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester of Delaware, potentially doubling the number of Black women ever elected to the Senate. Alsobrooks faces Republican Larry Hogan, a former Maryland governor, in the general election.

Both Gallego's and Alsobrooks's campaigns illustrate shifting dynamics within their respective states and the broader national political landscape leading up to the crucial elections.