

PRESERVATION ACTION

2026 CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE SURVEY

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Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives | Arizona District 1 | Libertarian

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Source survey and organization website: <https://preservationaction.org>

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) was established in 1976 to help carry out the National Historic Preservation Act. The responsibilities of the HPF are largely handled by State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, who administer the federal historic preservation program, including the review of federal infrastructure projects, nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, grants to CLGs, and administering the HTC. In recent years, the HPF has also supported competitive grant programs like the Save America's Treasures program, the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization grant program for rural communities, and others. The HPF is uniquely funded through a small percentage of offshore oil lease revenue, not tax-payer dollars. In FY 2026, Congress appropriated \$181.059 million for the HPF.

While the HPF receives annual appropriations, deposits into the HPF also need to be reauthorized. The HPF's current authorization is set to lapse at the end of September. A long-term authorization is urgently needed. The bipartisan Historic Preservation Fund Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3418) would reauthorize the HPF for 10 years and increase the authorized level from \$150 million to \$250 million annually.

Legislation referenced: [Historic Preservation Fund Reauthorization Act \(H.R. 3418\)](#)

QUESTION 1: Do you support stable and robust funding for the Historic Preservation Fund?

CANDIDATE ANSWER: YES

QUESTION 2: Do you support efforts to reauthorize the Historic Preservation Fund?

CANDIDATE ANSWER: YES

WHY I SUPPORT THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

There is a reason that ROME is known as the living 2000 year museum of the world. HISTORICAL PRESERVATION.

Italy understands something that America is quickly forgetting. You cannot appreciate the good parts of history if you try to erase the dark parts. Rome keeps monuments of brutal tyrants like Nero, who had St. Paul beheaded and crucified people along the Appian Way, not to mention he burned Rome down. But Italians know that is history that must be TOLD. Monuments, art, books, and flags are just pages in history books that tell a story.

It grieves me when I hear protests to tear down pillars of history today. For example, with slavery, if we tear down all the monuments then we are erasing the memory of the very people who suffered, fought, and died. If we don't learn from history, we will repeat it. They even protect the Colosseum—a place of absolute bloodshed and slavery—because erasing the building would erase the memory of the victims.

We see this same dangerous push to tear things down right here in America. Look at the iconic Thompson Elk statue in Oregon. It was built back in 1900 to show what the wild land was like back in the 1800s. It was a great piece of art, but rioters set fires under it and disgraced it until it was torn down. It grieved me to see that.

Even the land tells a story. Right here in Arizona, the Grand Canyon is said by many to be a monument of the great flood of Noah. History is rich and meaningful, and I support the preservation of all of it—the good, the bad, and the ugly. It is the history told by the land itself.

Mussolini's buildings still stand in Italy today, and yet no one celebrates him, they just remember. If we forget history, we may be forced to repeat it. Our priority must be keeping our history intact so future generations can learn the truth. Art doesn't lie.

This is another reason why all our endless wars should stop. They destroy people but also rich history. Bombs and conflict have wiped out some ancient history forever. The Parthenon explosion shattered an ancient temple, medieval libraries were burned to the ground, and the ancient city of Aleppo was completely reduced to rubble. Once a bomb drops on history, it is gone forever. Our own history is in peril right here in America if we do not actively preserve and protect it from being torn down or forgotten. So these are just some of the reasons I support stable and robust funding and efforts to reauthorize the Historic Preservation Fund.

FEDERAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX INCENTIVES

QUESTION 3: Would you support efforts to modernize and enhance the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit (HTC) program?

CANDIDATE ANSWER: YES

Comments on the Historic Tax Credit program

I support the Historic Tax Credit program because it relies on the free market and tax relief instead of federal handouts. Tearing down historic buildings destroys our physical history, but government spending sprees are not the answer. Giving private developers and property owners a tax credit to invest their own money into restoring historic landmarks is exactly how we should protect our heritage. It cuts the tax burden, respects property rights, and keeps the pages of our history alive right here in our local communities.

QUESTION 4: Do you support the Federal Historic Preservation Easement program, which incentivizes building owners to permanently protect and rehabilitate historic buildings by providing charitable tax deductions for the contribution of historic preservation easements?

CANDIDATE ANSWER: YES

Comments on the Historic Preservation Easement Program

I support this program because it is entirely voluntary and protects private property rights. Property rights are specifically listed as one my “near and dear issues.” We do not need federal bureaucrats taking over local lands or forcing rules on people. When an individual property owner makes a free choice to protect a historic landmark through a private agreement, that is the free market at work. It respects the owner’s rights, gives them a well-deserved tax break, and saves a piece of our history for future generations without expanding government power.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION & FEDERAL PROJECT PLANNING

QUESTION 5: Would you support policies that ensure that the impact on historic and cultural resources continue to be considered as part of the federal project planning process?

Candidate response

Historic Preservation and Federal Project Planning gives local people and tribes a say and stops big government from running over our communities. When Washington plans a giant construction project, bureaucrats shouldn’t be allowed to just bulldoze their way through our local history without asking anyone. Giving the community a seat at the table ensures we protect our heritage and our rights. It is just common sense to let local people look out for their own land.

At its core, federal project planning laws are supposed to stop Washington from taking land, destroying history, or pushing local ranchers and tribes off their property without a fight. When federal agencies abuse their power, it leads directly to dangerous standoffs like the Bundy ranch standoff or the tragedy where Arizona cattle rancher LaVoy Finicum (RIP) was shot and killed.

QUESTION 6: Does historic preservation play an important role in your state/district? How so? Describe any personal connections to historic preservation or historic sites. Is there a specific historic place in your district that is important to you and your constituents?

Candidate response

Here in Arizona’s 1st Congressional District (AZ-01), we have an incredible local landmark right in our backyard: the historic town of Cave Creek. Cave Creek is a living monument to Arizona’s old frontier mining and ranching history from the late 1800s, and its residents fight fiercely to preserve its rugged, independent western character and independent western heritage from being paved over by reckless corporate development. This isn’t just about old structures—it is about respecting the independent spirit of the pioneers who built this state. In many ways Arizona is still the wild wild west!

Preserving places like Cave Creek is a huge win for everyone because it keeps our heritage alive and allows future generations to understand the independent, freedom-loving roots of Arizona.

SOURCE & CONTACT

[Preservation Action — preservationaction.org](https://preservationaction.org) | info@preservationaction.org