Adelita Grijalva Wins Special Election in Arizona's 7th District, Carrying Forward Her Father's Legacy

Arizona's newest representative, Adelita Grijalva, speaks to a crowd of supporters during her election night acceptance speech in Tucson on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025. Photo Courtesy of Danny Sax, AZPM

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On September 23, 2025, Adelita Grijalva won the special election in Arizona's 7th Congressional District, succeeding her father, the late Congressman Raúl Grijalva, who passed away in March 2025. Congressman Grijalva spent more than two decades as one of Indian Country's most consistent advocates, pressing for stronger federal consultation, protection of sacred lands, and environmental safeguards across the Southwest.

Adelita Grijalva has already pledged to continue that legacy as her district encompases the Tohono O'odham Nation and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. During her campaign she also engaged directly with the Grand Canyon Trust and the 12 Tribal Nations advancing co-stewardship of the Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument. This coalition effort includes the Navajo Nation and is especially important as some Arizona Representatives have moved to revoke the monument's designation. The region still faces the toxic legacy of

uranium mining, making these protections increasingly important to the Navajo Nation. Grijalva's election ensures Arizona's tribal nations will have a strong ally in Congress.

On election night, Grijalva told supporters that her family name alone would not be enough to earn the trust of the community, stressing instead that service is what matters. "A last name alone doesn't earn you the trust from the community, service does. And my dad's legacy is one of service to Southern Arizona," she said. Grijalva grew emotional as she described her father's life of public service, adding, "He literally fought until his last breath for this community. He served more than 50 years, and he was the most progressive member of Congress. Full stop."

For the 22 tribes in Arizona, her victory is welcome news. Grijalva has spoken clearly about the importance of honoring sovereignty, supporting co-management, and defending hard-won protections for ancestral lands.