



GAGE DYLAN THUNDER 

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE PLATFORM

Arizona's 1st Congressional District (U.S. House) • Delaware (U.S. Senate)

2026 General Election — Dual Write-In Candidacy: U.S. House (AZ) + U.S. Senate (DE)

"There is a better way. The Thunder Way."

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction & Candidate Statement

Who I am, and why this campaign exists

My name is Gage Dylan Thunder. I am a prior Army National Guard 91B service member with the 108th Combat Support Hospital, an independent recording artist, a technology entrepreneur, a Sabbath-keeping Christian, and a declared write-in candidate for federal office in two states simultaneously: U.S. House of Representatives for Arizona's 1st Congressional District, and U.S. Senate for the State of Delaware.

I have never belonged to a political party. I was approached by more than one minor party this cycle offering a ballot line in exchange for candidacy, and I declined each offer. I am running as a true independent — not affiliated with any party, and not funded by any PAC, party committee, or dark-money organization.

This platform is the product of a working life that has touched nearly every level of the American economy — from a paper route at twelve years old, through military medical service, factory work, trucking, healthcare, insurance, publishing, the music industry, and corporate roles — before arriving at this candidacy. I am not asking you to trust a party label. I am asking you to evaluate a record.

This booklet lays out, chapter by chapter, what I would actually do in office: the committees and caucuses I would work to establish, the tools I would build to keep this office accountable to you, and the principles that guide every position in between.



CHAPTER 2

Producerist Capitalism

Protecting the people who build, make, and produce

Producerist Capitalism is the belief that an economy should be built around the people who actually produce value — workers, small manufacturers, tradespeople, family farms, and independent businesses — rather than around financial engineering, offshoring incentives, or corporate subsidy programs that reward size over contribution.

What this means in practice

- Protect domestic infrastructure and manufacturing capacity, especially in industries tied to national resilience (energy, medical supply, food production).
- End corporate welfare — tax breaks, subsidies, and carve-outs that go to politically connected large corporations rather than to working families or genuinely small businesses.
- Support working-class families directly, through policy that rewards labor and production rather than speculation.
- Favor a level playing field over targeted favors — the goal is fair rules, not picking winners.

This is not an anti-business platform. It is a pro-producer platform: it asks who an economic policy actually serves before asking whether it sounds pro-growth.



CHAPTER 3

The Constituent App

Your voice, counted before mine

The Constituent App is a direct-accountability tool I am building for this office: a platform where every registered voter in my district can register their position on a bill before I cast a vote on it in Congress.

How it works

- Every significant bill is posted to the app before the vote, in plain language, with a summary of what it does.
- Constituent majority is the default vote — if a clear majority of participating constituents register a position, that is the position I vote.
- Any departure from that default is explained publicly, in writing, with my reasoning, before or immediately after the vote.

This does not replace judgment or expertise — some votes involve classified briefings or fast-moving circumstances where real-time public input isn't possible. In those cases, I commit to explaining my reasoning afterward with the same transparency. The default posture, however, is that this seat answers to the district first.



CHAPTER 4

Constituent Sovereignty Committee

A structural home for the Constituent App's principles

I will work to establish a Constituent Sovereignty Committee — a proposed independent caucus dedicated to building formal, durable mechanisms for direct constituent input into congressional decision-making, beyond any single member's personal app or tool.

- Standardize best practices for constituent-input tools across offices that choose to adopt them.
- Push for transparency requirements on how often members' votes diverge from documented constituent sentiment in their own districts.
- Serve as a bipartisan/non-partisan home for members — of any party or no party — who want structural accountability tools, not just campaign talking points about accountability.



CHAPTER 5

Fiscal Conscience & Taxpayer Protection Caucus

Spending discipline paired with conscience protection

This proposed caucus combines two ideas that are usually treated separately: fiscal discipline, and the individual taxpayer's right not to be compelled to fund outcomes that violate their conscience.

- Push for regular, independent audits of discretionary spending and corporate subsidy programs.
- Advocate for clearer, itemized public reporting of how tax dollars are spent, agency by agency.
- Extend conscience-protection principles to taxpayer funding questions — including funding for war, capital punishment, and other areas where sincere, faithful people disagree (see Chapter 9 for the full framework).



CHAPTER 6

Veterans, Military Families & Tribal Nations Caucus

Honoring service and treaty obligations alike

As a prior Army National Guard 91B service member with the 108th Combat Support Hospital, I bring direct, personal familiarity with the gap between what service members are promised and what they actually receive — in benefits, healthcare, and reintegration support.

- Push for faster, more reliable VA healthcare access, especially mental health and reintegration services.
- Support military families during and after deployment, including caregiver support programs.
- Uphold the federal government's treaty obligations to tribal nations, including consultation requirements before decisions affecting tribal land, water, or resources — and support tribal sovereignty in matters of self-governance.

This caucus pairs two constituencies — veterans and tribal nations — that are too often treated as separate concerns, but that share a common thread: promises made by the federal government that deserve to be kept in full, not in part.



CHAPTER 7

Small Business, Working Family & Producerist Economy Committee

Making Chapter 2's principles enforceable

This proposed committee would give Producerist Capitalism (Chapter 2) a legislative home — a standing body focused specifically on the interests of small businesses and working families in trade, tax, and regulatory policy.

- Review proposed legislation for disproportionate compliance burdens on small businesses relative to large corporations.
- Advocate for working-family tax relief that is simple to claim, not buried in complexity that favors those who can afford accountants.
- Support apprenticeship and trade-skill pipelines as equally valid to four-year degree pathways.



CHAPTER 8

Election Integrity & Independent Access Reform Caucus

Fair rules for every candidate, not just party nominees

Independent and write-in candidates face structural barriers that major-party nominees do not — signature requirements, filing deadlines, and ballot-access rules that vary widely by state and were often written by legislators from the two major parties.

- Push for clearer, more consistent write-in certification standards across states.
- Support transparency in how write-in votes are counted and reported, so results are trustworthy and auditable.
- Advocate for reforms — such as ranked-choice voting where states choose to adopt it — that reduce the 'wasted vote' pressure on voters who want to support a non-major-party candidate.

This caucus is about the integrity of the process, not the outcome of any single race — the goal is a system where every serious candidate, regardless of party, competes on a fair and transparent playing field.



CHAPTER 9

Conscience, Faith & Civil Liberties Committee

Personal conviction without imposed theology

I am a person of faith — a Seventh-day Sabbath-keeping Evangelical Baptist Christian — and I hold that conviction openly. I also believe, from that same faith, in a consistent principle of freedom of conscience: that government should not compel any citizen to fund or participate in outcomes their sincere conscience cannot accept.

- Apply conscience protection consistently — not selectively — across issues including reproductive choice, war funding, and capital punishment, where sincere, faithful people reach different conclusions.
- Protect the right of every individual to reach their own conclusion on deeply personal matters, rather than legislating one theological or ideological view for an entire, diverse constituency.
- Support robust civil-liberties protections for people of all faiths and of no faith.

This committee's guiding principle: a public official can hold a personal faith conviction without imposing it as binding law on constituents who do not share that faith — while still applying conscience protections consistently for taxpayers across the political spectrum.



CHAPTER 10

Public Office Fitness & Accountability Standards Committee

A standard I would meet first

I am proposing the first mandatory psychological fitness evaluation standard for federal officeholders — a standard I have committed to meeting myself, publicly, before asking any other candidate to do the same.

- Establish an independent, non-partisan evaluation standard — not a political weapon, and not administered by any single party or campaign.
- Apply the standard evenly to all candidates for federal office who choose to participate, with results disclosed to voters in the same way financial disclosures currently are.
- Pair fitness standards with conflict-of-interest disclosure requirements, closing gaps in current financial and ethics reporting.

The purpose is not to disqualify people for having a mental health history — it is to give voters a transparent, professional baseline of fitness for office, the same way many other safety-sensitive professions already require.



CHAPTER 11

Women & Children's Welfare and Safety Caucus

Protection that doesn't wait for a headline

This proposed caucus focuses specifically on the welfare and safe treatment of women and children — a category of concern that spans domestic violence protection, child welfare system reform, maternal healthcare access, and safety in schools and communities, and that too often gets divided up across other committees rather than addressed as a coherent priority.

- Support funding and oversight for domestic violence prevention and survivor services.
- Push for accountability and adequate resourcing in child welfare systems, including foster care.
- Advocate for maternal healthcare access, particularly in underserved and rural communities.
- Treat child safety in schools and online spaces as a bipartisan, non-negotiable priority.



CHAPTER 12

Financial Integrity & Conflicts of Interest Caucus

Disclosure and deterrence, not just disclosure after the fact

This proposed caucus is distinct from campaign-finance reform (Chapter 15): it is about the financial conduct of sitting officeholders themselves — trading, outside income, and conflicts between personal financial interests and legislative decisions.

- Push for a binding ban on individual stock trading by members of Congress and their immediate families while in office, with real enforcement mechanisms, not just disclosure requirements.
- Strengthen and speed up conflict-of-interest disclosure timelines, closing gaps in current reporting law.
- Support independent, non-partisan review of disclosed conflicts, with real consequences for violations.



CHAPTER 13

Ethical Immigration Enforcement Caucus

Human dignity and border security as equally non-negotiable

This proposed caucus is built on a single premise: border security and humane treatment are not opposing goals, and a serious immigration policy has to hold both at once rather than sacrificing one for the other.

- Support secure, well-resourced border enforcement paired with due-process protections for those in the system.
- Push for humane standards and independent oversight in immigration detention.
- Advocate for a functional, less-backlogged legal immigration and asylum process, so enforcement resources focus on genuine violations rather than a broken queue.



CHAPTER 14

Moral Treatment of Sovereign Nations Caucus

Conscience-based foreign policy

This proposed caucus extends the conscience-protection framework from Chapter 9 into foreign policy: the conviction that U.S. engagement with other sovereign nations — including military action, foreign aid, and diplomatic recognition — should be held to a consistent moral standard rather than a purely transactional one.

- Support congressional oversight and debate before military engagements, consistent with the conscience-protection principle that no American should be compelled to fund a war they believe is unjust without their representatives having genuinely deliberated it.
- Push for human-rights accountability in foreign aid and arms agreements.
- Advocate for consistent application of these standards across allies and adversaries alike, rather than a double standard driven by convenience.



CHAPTER 15

Money Out of Politics

No PAC money. No dark money. No exceptions.

This campaign is not funded by any PAC, party committee, or dark-money organization, and I am not personally trading in the stock market or holding a brokerage account, nor is any immediate family member, while I am a candidate or officeholder.

- Pledge to donate 20–30% of any congressional salary back to the district I represent.
- Hold creative and music royalties in escrow while in office, to remove any appearance of conflict between personal income and legislative decisions.
- Support campaign finance transparency reforms that apply to every candidate, not just independents — full, fast, itemized disclosure of contributions and expenditures.

The goal is simple: a representative whose financial incentives are never in tension with their constituents' interests.



CHAPTER 16

Arizona & Delaware: District and State Priorities

Where these principles meet the ground

Arizona's 1st Congressional District — U.S. House

AZ-1 covers Scottsdale, north Phoenix, Cave Creek, and the surrounding northeast Valley — a fast-growing region facing real pressure on water resources, housing costs, and small-business competitiveness. This is an open seat with no incumbent, contested between Jay Feely (R, Trump-endorsed) and Amish Shah (D, physician and former state representative). Producerist Capitalism (Ch. 2) and the Small Business Committee (Ch. 7) apply directly here: a representative who answers to constituents first rather than to a national party machine addresses these local pressures differently than either major-party nominee will.

Delaware — U.S. Senate

Delaware's U.S. Senate race in 2026 features a four-way general-election field: Chris Coons (D, 16-year incumbent, ~\$6.9M raised), Michael Katz (R, former Democratic state senator who ran as the Independent Party of Delaware's 2024 Senate nominee before rebranding as a Republican), Travis Jack Stevens (unaffiliated write-in), and Gage Dylan Thunder (unaffiliated write-in).

More than 250,000 Delaware voters are registered with no party affiliation — they could not vote in either major-party primary, but they vote in the general election. The Constituent App (Ch. 3) and Election Integrity Caucus (Ch. 8) are built specifically for that constituency. The contrast with Katz is direct and factual: one candidate in this race has run under three different party labels in three election cycles. I have never held a party affiliation — not once, in my entire life.

The contrast with the 16-year Coons incumbency is equally direct: the Constituent App means constituents vote on every bill before I do. A 16-year senator who has never offered that is not a career benchmark — it is exactly what this platform exists to replace.



CHAPTER 17

The Path Forward

What comes after November 3rd

This platform is built for 2026 — for a U.S. House race in Arizona's 1st Congressional District and a U.S. Senate race in Delaware, each decided on its own terms by its own voters. The combination is deliberate: one race in a competitive open seat in the Southwest, one race for a seat in the First State held by a 16-year incumbent, two different kinds of proof that an independent funded by no PAC and accountable through tools like the Constituent App can be taken seriously in any race, in any state, against any field.

Beyond this cycle, I am part of forming a coalition of independent-minded voters and candidates who share these accountability principles, so that this way of running for office does not depend on any one campaign or any one candidate to continue. Details on that longer-term effort are available separately for anyone interested, rather than in this district-facing platform booklet.

For now, the ask is simple: read this platform, hold me to it, and if it reflects what you want from a representative, vote Thunder on November 3rd.

There is a better way. The Thunder Way.

Vote Gage Dylan Thunder — November 3rd.