

Wall Street Veteran Wants to Flip GOP Arizona House Seat in 2024

Conor O’Callaghan is running as a Democrat in Scottsdale

Finance veteran will keep job at BTIG as he enters race



Conor O’Callaghan *Photographer: Brad Olson*

By [Amanda L Gordon](#)

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Conor O’Callaghan climbed the Wall Street ladder all the way to Scottsdale, Arizona.

Working from his house in the desert, the 40-year-old runs [BTIG](#)’s structured products sales desk on New York hours, starting his day at 4:30 a.m.

Now, he’s setting his sights on Washington, DC. The Democrat is entering the race in Arizona’s Congressional District 1, seeking to topple Representative David Schweikert, a Republican in his seventh term.

The seat O’Callaghan is running for, in one of Arizona’s wealthiest districts, is among those the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is targeting as it seeks to retake the House in 2024.

[JPMorgan VP Quits Wall Street to Run Against Santos in New York](#)

O’Callaghan, who will continue working at BTIG as he enters the campaign, said in an interview his experience in finance helps him understand economic issues, and particularly financial regulation.

“I will bring an expertise to bear on those issues that exceeds that of 99% of currently sitting congresspeople,” he said. “It does pain me to watch some of those congressional hearings.”

O’Callaghan isn’t the only finance professional who is trying to enter politics this election cycle. In New York, Kellen Curry left his job at JPMorgan Chase & Co. to run against Representative George Santos, a fellow Republican who lied [about having worked](#) at Goldman Sachs and Citigroup during his 2022 campaign.

Arizona is a key battleground in the presidential election, and is expected to be pivotal in the fight to control Congress. Schweikert, 61, narrowly won with 50.4% of the vote in his 2022 race.

O’Callaghan joins a crowded Democratic primary field that includes at least five other candidates.

“This seat is winnable and flippable, but we have to nominate the right candidate, and I believe I am that candidate,” O’Callaghan said.

O’Callaghan said his interest in public service goes back to high school, when he served as a congressional page. During a roughly 10-year stint at Nomura, he earned a law degree, and also has a master’s in public administration. He campaigned “very hard, across multiple states” for Hillary Clinton’s presidential bid in 2008.



O'Callaghan and two of his sons in a scene from a campaign launch video. *Source: Bloomberg*
O'Callaghan's parents emigrated from Ireland when he was a baby. He grew up in Scottsdale and met his wife Tina in New York, while they were working at Credit Suisse First Boston. They have three sons.

Back in Arizona for more than three years, O'Callaghan said he doesn't miss the "echo chamber" of left-leaning New York, but supports a woman's right to choose and gun reform.

He said he's getting into politics a bit sooner than he had planned.

"Since the start of the Trump presidency and since Jan. 6 and election denialism, I think there's more at stake now than there's been in my lifetime," he said.