



Leigh Finke

Leigh Finke is an American politician serving in the Minnesota House of Representatives since 2023. A member of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party (DFL), Finke represents District 66A in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, which includes the cities of Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Roseville and Saint Paul, and parts of Ramsey County in Minnesota.^{[1][2]}

Early life, education and career

Finke was born in Minnesota to a Jewish family. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature in 2003 and a Master of Arts in Shakespeare from DePaul University.^{[3][1]}

From 2007 to 2008, Finke worked as an adjunct professor of at DePaul University and Normandale Community College. Finke worked in renewable energy policy advocacy from 2011 to 2015. From 2013 to 2019 she was a reporter for *Yes!*, where she covered the intersection of justice movements and popular culture. From 2015 to 2018, she was a project manager at Sparkhouse. From 2018 to 2021, Finke was the senior producer at 1517 Media. There, she wrote and produced two documentary films: *Ending the Silence: Confronting Sexual Shame in the Church* and *White Savior: Racism in the American Church*. She also edited two nonfiction books for Beaming Books: *Queerfully and Wonderfully Made* and *Welcoming and Affirming*. In 2021 and 2022, she worked as Multimedia Storyteller for the ACLU of Minnesota.^[4] In late 2022, she was publicly critical of Republican gubernatorial candidate Scott Jensen for spreading the transphobic litter boxes in schools hoax.^[5]

Minnesota House of Representatives

Finke was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 2022. She first ran after legislative redistricting and the retirement of 17-term DFL incumbent Alice Hausman.^[1]

Leigh Finke



**Member of the
Minnesota House of
Representatives
from the 66A district**

Incumbent

Assumed office

January 3, 2023

Preceded by Alice Hausman

Constituency 66A (2023-present)

Personal details

Born Minnesota

Political party Democratic (DFL)

Children 2

Residence Saint Paul, Minnesota

Education Bethel University (BA)

Finke serves on the Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy, Human Services Policy, Judiciary Finance and Civil Law, and Legacy Finance Committees.^[1]

Awards and honors

In 2023, Finke was named as one of *USA Today's* Women of the Year, which recognizes women who have made a significant impact across the country.^[6]

Electoral history

2022 DFL Primary - Minnesota State House - District 66A^[7]

Party	Candidate	Votes	%
<u>Democratic (DFL)</u>	Leigh Finke	4,034	63.17
<u>Democratic (DFL)</u>	Dave Thomas	2,352	36.83
Total votes		6,386	100%

2022 Minnesota State House - District 66A^[8]

Party	Candidate	Votes	%
<u>Democratic (DFL)</u>	Leigh Finke	15,635	81.14
<u>Republican</u>	Trace Johnson	3,569	18.52
Total votes		19,268	100%
<u>Democratic (DFL)</u> hold			

Personal life

Finke is the first openly transgender person to serve in the Minnesota Legislature.^[4] She lives in St. Paul, Minnesota, and has two children.^[1]

References

- "Finke, Leigh - Legislator Record - Minnesota Legislators Past & Present" (<https://www.lrl.mn.gov/legdb/fulldetail?ID=15575>). *www.lrl.mn.gov*. Retrieved 2023-02-28.
- "Rep. Leigh Finke (66A) - Minnesota House of Representatives" (<https://www.house.mn.gov/members/profile/15575>). *www.house.mn.gov*. Retrieved 2023-02-28.
- Eidsvoog, Emma; Johnson, Makenzi (2021-03-23). "Places to breathe" (<https://bethelclarion.com/2021/03/23/places-to-breathe/>). *bethelclarion.com*. Retrieved

	<u>DePaul University (MA)</u>
Occupation	<u>Media · Legislator</u>
Website	<u>Government website (http s://www.house.mn.gov/members/profile/15575) Campaign website (http s://www.leighformn.com/)</u>

2022-11-13.

4. "Leigh Finke to become first transgender legislator in Minnesota House" (<https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/leigh-finke-to-become-first-transgender-legislator-in-minnesota-house/>). *www.cbsnews.com*. Retrieved 2022-11-13.
5. Stroozas, Sam (October 3, 2022). "Jensen spreads false rumor about Minnesota's LGBTQ+ youth" (<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2022/10/03/jensen-spreads-false-rumor-about-minnesotas-lgbtq-youth>). *Minnesota Public Radio*. Retrieved October 6, 2022.
6. Most, Becca (19 March 2023). "'Our movements for justice are lifelong': Meet Minnesota's first transgender legislator" (<https://www.sctimes.com/in-depth/news/2023/03/19/leigh-finke-minnesota-usa-today-women-year/69662214007/>). *St. Cloud Times*. Retrieved 4 April 2023.
7. "2022 Results for State Representative District 66A" (<https://electionresults.sos.state.mn.us/Results/Index?ErsElectionId=148&scenario=StateRepresentative&districtCode=66A>). *Minnesota Secretary of State*. Retrieved February 25, 2023.
8. "2022 Results for State Representative District 66A" (<https://electionresults.sos.state.mn.us/results/Index?ErsElectionId=149&scenario=StateRepresentative&DistrictId=485&show=Go>). *Minnesota Secretary of State*. Retrieved February 25, 2023.

External links

- Leigh Finke (<https://www.leg.state.mn.us/legdb/fulldetail?ID=15575>) at Minnesota Legislators Past & Present (<https://www.leg.state.mn.us/legdb/>)
- Official House of Representatives website (<https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/profile/15575>)
- Official campaign website (<https://www.leighformn.com/>)

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