

RANDY FINE

IMPACT: Randy Fine is an American Republican politician and currently serves as a Senator for the Florida state government. Before joining politics, he served as a gambling industry executive. Fine has been described as an "unhinged bigot," "controversial," "divisive," and "abrasive." He has a history of making anti-Muslim, anti-Palestinian, and racist comments, and has threatened two Muslim women members of Congress. In 2024, Fine announced he would be running for the US Congress and was endorsed by President Donald Trump.

- Randy Fine received his bachelor's degree and MBA from Harvard University. In 2005, he founded The Fine Point Group, a "technology company that helps casino companies improve their performance through data analysis." Before entering politics, he worked as a consultant for various gambling-related companies, including Harrah's Entertainment (now known as Caesars Entertainment) and American Casino & Entertainment Properties. In 2015, Find said he had "semi-retired from the company last year" in order to spend more time with his family. That year, he announced he was running for a seat on the Florida House of Representatives, putting \$100,000 of his own money into his campaign. He won the election in 2016.
- A 2018 <u>piece</u> in *Florida Today* criticized Fine's personal style, describing it as an "abrasive way of doing business." The authors of the piece, both editors at Florida Today, noted that "Fine's victory would be a big local boost to the combative manner which dominates the national political stage. His defeat would embolden local Democrats and Republicans who desire greater civility in politics." The piece also <u>stated</u> that both Democrats and Republicans were critical of Fine and did not approve of his "confrontational and often divisive manner."
- In another 2018 piece, the editorial board of *Florida Today* <u>concluded</u> that "Fine's bullying style of politics is bad for our county and doesn't get anything accomplished but dividing us." The board listed several troubling instances involving Fine including him <u>calling people</u> "Nazis" on "Facebook for criticizing his legislation to ban contracts with anybody supporting a boycott of Israel." The board also said that Fine has constantly berated local officials for simply disagreeing with him. The piece <u>advised</u> that "Fine should defend what he believes in, but not by launching tirades against others as crusades on behalf of his constituents. He can look good without trying to make others look bad with personal attacks."
- In April 2019, Fine, who is also Jewish, <u>referred</u> to Paul Halpern, a Jewish constituent, on Facebook as a "Judenrat," a "term for a Nazi-installed council made up of Jewish members during World War II." Halpern said he <u>considered</u> the term a slur and "the worst thing that you can call a Jewish person." Fine had initially <u>posted</u> about an event called "Palestine/Israel, Opening the Dialogue," calling it "an anti-Semitic rally targeting Jews sponsored by a Democrat club." Fine did not attend the event. Halpern was a member of the organization that organized the event and responded to Fine's accusations, stating that "nothing anti-Semitic" took place, and noting that "questioning the policies of the Israeli government is not anti-Semitic," and "Three of the five panelists were Jewish."
- In May 2021, several national and state-level Muslim organizations <u>denounced</u> Fine's anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian social media posts and called for an ethics violation investigation. The groups accused Find of "inciting hate and violence against members of the Palestinian community in several Facebook posts referring to the Palestinians as 'animals." In response, Fine <u>reportedly</u> "doubled down on controversial social media posts, including one that advocated blowing up Palestinians, calling his detractors terrorist sympathizers." In August 2021, the Florida chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Florida), <u>filed</u> a sworn complaint alleging a violation of the Florida House Rules relating to Fine's egregious conduct. The group noted that Fine "attacked people of the Muslim faith calling them 'monsters,' 'terrorists,' and 'rapists.'"
- Fine has a long history of making anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian statements, many of which have been publicly made on social media platforms. A September 2024 Middle East Eye piece noted that Fine's account on X is "filled with posts using hashtags like '#MuslimProblem', '#BombsAway' and '#MuslimTerrorists'." He has repeatedly claimed there is a "Muslim problem" in



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the United States and worldwide In a tweet on July 27, 2024, Fine <u>stated</u>, "We have a Muslim problem in America."

- In a May 2024 tweet, Fine appeared to equate Palestine to "Muslim terror." He wrote: "In Florida, if you support Muslim terror, you will be treated like a Muslim terrorist. Next session, I will introduce legislation that adds any country that recognizes "Palestine" to Florida's list of scrutized [sic] countries, with severe limitations on entities from those countries doing business with and in Florida..." Further, by using quotes around the word Palestine, Fine sought to delegitimize its existence, which is a clear example of anti-Palestinian racism.
- On August 13, 2024, <u>Israelis</u> "stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem, as well as villages in the <u>occupied West Bank</u>, as they marked a Jewish holiday." An Al Jazeera <u>piece</u> from that day noted that "far-right national security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir led a crowd of thousands into the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem" and performed prayers. This incident was a violation of an agreement that has been in place since 1967, which <u>states</u> that while "non-Muslims are allowed onto the site during visiting hours, they are <u>barred from praying there</u>." While the <u>United</u> Nations and the <u>European Union</u> denounced Ben-Gvir for leading prayers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, Fine tweeted in support of the illegal act. He <u>stated</u>: "Proud of the Jews who prayed on the Temple Mount today in the face of Muslim occupiers! Any religion that can't share its third holiest site with another religion for which it is the holiest shouldn't have access at all. It's part of the #MuslimProblem. #PrayAway."
- In September 2024, Fine <u>celebrated</u> the <u>killing</u> of 26-year-old American citizen Ayşenur Ezgi Eygi, an activist reportedly killed by the Israeli forces while peacefully protesting illegal settlements in the West Bank. On X, Fine <u>wrote</u>, "Throw rocks, get shot. One less #MuslimTerror ist. #FireAway."
- In November 2024, Fine <u>announced</u> he would be running for US Congress and received the endorsement from then-President-elect Donald Trump. Announcing his candidacy on X, Find <u>posted</u> "Donald Trump needs fighters who will Make America Wealthy Again, Make American Safe Again, and someone who will stand up for Israel. That is why today I'm announcing my candidacy for FL 6th Congressional District." Trump <u>endorsed</u> Fine on his Truth Social platform, describing him as "an incredible Voice for MAGA," and "an INCREDIBLE Fighter who will work tirelessly with me to Stop Inflation, Grow our Economy, Secure the Border, Champion our Military/Vets, Restore American Energy DOMINANCE, Protect our always under siege Second Amendment, and Restore PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH."
- In a November 26, 2024 tweet on X, Fine <u>targeted</u> Congresswomen Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) and Ilhan Omar (D-MN), the only two female Muslim members of Congress. Fine threatened the congresswomen, <u>writing</u>, "The 'Hebrew Hammer' is coming. @RashidaTlaib and @IlhanMN might consider leaving before I get there. #BombsAway." Following Fine's threats against the two Muslim lawmakers, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) <u>called</u> on the "U.S. Capitol Police to step up protection for Representatives Omar and Tlaib to ensure their safety," and said that the Fine's apparent threat of violence "must be investigated by state and federal law enforcement authorities and condemned by both Democratic and Republican Party leadership." CAIR <u>described</u> Fine as an "unhinged anti-Muslim bigot."
- Following the New Orleans attack on January 1, 2025, Fine <u>posted</u> on X, "Muslim terror has attacked the United States — again. The blood is on the hands of those who refuse to acknowledge the worldwide #MuslimProblem. It is high time to deal with this fundamentally broken and dangerous culture." In response to Fine's tweet, Richard Grenell, an ally of President Trump, criticized Fine, <u>writing</u>: "They are Radicals. The Radicals must be defeated. Muslims call them Radicals, too. You aren't helping. There's this thing called the First Amendment which guarantees religious freedoms."