



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Walt Blackman (R-7)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rep. Walt Blackman Calls on Leaders to Condemn Racist Social Media Posts

Urges leaders across the political spectrum to reject degrading racial stereotypes

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona State Representative Walt Blackman today called on elected officials and community leaders across the political spectrum to condemn social media content depicting Black Americans as apes and using degrading racial stereotypes.

“Leadership is measured by the standards we uphold when doing so comes at a cost. Condemning an opponent is easy. Confronting wrongdoing among political allies requires conviction.

“Depicting Black Americans as apes and portraying an entire race as a societal problem is racist and dehumanizing. Leaders should have no difficulty saying so.

“I firmly defend the First Amendment, including speech I find offensive. That protection also safeguards our freedom to challenge hateful ideas. I am calling for a voluntary response and public accountability, not government censorship.

“I am asking elected officials and community leaders across the political spectrum to publicly condemn this content, and I am asking those who shared it to acknowledge the harm it causes.

“Our commitment to individual liberty, equal opportunity, and human dignity must hold firm regardless of who violates those principles. The standard must be the same for everyone. Political considerations must never become an excuse for tolerating racial degradation.

“Our children are learning from what adults say and what leaders tolerate. They deserve to see courage expressed through respect for others and a willingness to speak when silence would be easier.

“The people of Legislative District 7 deserve leadership that protects their freedoms, respects their dignity, and brings communities together. This moment calls for a clear response: defend free speech, condemn racism, and uphold the same principles regardless of who crosses the line.”

View the images referenced in this statement on X: <https://x.com/blackmanforaz/status/2103303305468285072>

Representative Walt Blackman is a retired United States Army combat veteran who served for 21 years, including deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. He represents Arizona’s Legislative District 7 and serves as Chairman of the House Government Committee. Follow him on X at @BlackmanForAZ.

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