



# Susan Allen

Susan Allen was the first American Indian woman to serve in the Minnesota Legislature and the first openly lesbian American Indian to win election to a state legislature. A member of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, she served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 2012 to 2018. Allen is Lakota, Dakota, and Anishinabe and identifies as Two Spirit.<sup>1,2</sup> She is an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

She earned her JD from University of New Mexico Law School and focuses her practice on helping tribal governments draft substantive tribal laws that address child welfare, housing, economic development, and health care.<sup>3</sup> She is an expert in nearly all areas of taxation and other matters relating to internal tribal governance and tribal government relationships with federal, state, and local governments. She also has served as associate judge for the Lower Sioux Community in Minnesota and for the Prairie Island Dakota Community Children's Court.

## References

<sup>1</sup> Allen, Susan—Legislator Record—Minnesota Legislators Past & Present. (n.d.). Retrieved May 24, 2022, from <https://www.lrl.mn.gov/legdb/fulldetail?id=15377>

<sup>2</sup> Weber, S. (2016, December 21). Minnesota Rep. Susan Allen Is Two-Spirit, a Lesbian, and She Won't Be Assimilated. Slate. <https://slate.com/human-interest/2016/12/susan-allen-minnesota-state-representative-is-lesbian-and-two-spirit-and-won-t-be-assimilated.html>

<sup>3</sup> Experience | Susan Allen for Minnesota House District 61B. (2012, July 15). Archive.Ph. <https://archive.ph/jEzO>

