# So why did Grindr crash during the Charlie Kirk memorial? Over-use by attendees?



On September 21, 2025, tens of thousands gathered at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, for a memorial service honouring Charlie Kirk, the homophobic Christian conservative commentator who was fatally shot at an event held at Utah Valley University two weeks prior. The attendance was notable not only for its size—nearly 90,000 people, including high-profile figures like former President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance—but also for its overtly political and cultural symbolism. The event, described by the BBC as resembling 'a raucous political rally or megachurch service,' featured a sea of red, white and blue, countless Make America Great Again hats, and Christian bands leading communal prayer and song.

In the midst of this gathering, an unexpected digital phenomenon caught the attention of social media users in Phoenix, just nine miles from the stadium. Grindr, the popular gay dating and hookup app, reportedly experienced significant server outages, with users in Phoenix and other major cities like Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York reporting widespread difficulties accessing the service. Crowdsourced monitoring tool Downdetector recorded sharp spikes in outage reports precisely around 7 pm, coinciding with the memorial event. However, Grindr did not issue any official statements acknowledging or explaining the outages.

The timing and location of these Grindr service interruptions sparked waves of speculation and humour online, with many joking that the conservative crowd had overwhelmed the app’s servers. An anonymous screenshot circulated on TikTok appeared to show users on a similar hookup app, Sniffies, congregating suspiciously around the stadium, further feeding the narrative. While such reports stem from user-submitted data on platforms like Downdetector—which accounts for typical reporting volumes based on long-term trends—online commentary embraced the coincidence with both irony and satire.

This is far from the first time Grindr has experienced outages or spikes in usage linked to large conservative political events. Similar patterns were observed during the 2016 Republican National Convention (RNC) in Cleveland, where Grindr reported a 66% surge in local users near the Quicken Loans Arena. At that time, the app noted that white men, who comprise only 40% of the overall Grindr community, represented 75% of the local users at the RNC, underlining a demographic nuance. The 2024 RNC in Milwaukee also saw Grindr slowdowns and increased anonymous activity, with over 1,000 outage reports in the area and a corresponding influx of users seeking quick connections amidst the political proceedings. Former Republican Congressman George Santos even remarked that Grindr executives referred to the RNC as the "Grindr Super Bowl" due to the unprecedented user activity.

The connection between large conservative events and spikes in Grindr usage has intrigued observers and injected a layer of irony into the sociopolitical discourse. Charlie Kirk, a vocal opponent of gay marriage, a critic of what he called the 'LGBTQ agenda,' and an advocate for rigid gender binaries, would likely find this juxtaposition, erm, interesting. Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.starobserver.com.au/news/international-news-news/reports-of-mass-grindr-outages-near-charlie-kirk-memorial-service/238867> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.dailydot.com/viral-politics/charlie-kirk-memorial-grindr/> - On September 21, 2025, a memorial service for conservative commentator Charlie Kirk was held at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, attracting thousands of attendees. Concurrently, Grindr users in Phoenix reported difficulties accessing the app, with Downdetector.com noting significant spikes in outage reports. While Grindr did not officially acknowledge any issues, the timing and location of the outages led to speculation that the influx of conservative attendees might have been a contributing factor. Similar patterns were observed during previous Republican National Conventions, where Grindr experienced increased traffic and occasional outages in host cities. The article highlights the correlation between large conservative events and Grindr's performance, noting that such occurrences have sparked online discussions and humorous reactions. The piece also references past instances, such as the 2016 RNC in Cleveland, where Grindr reported a 66% increase in local usage, and the 2024 RNC in Milwaukee, where users experienced similar issues. The article concludes by noting that while Grindr did not officially confirm any outages during the Charlie Kirk memorial, the reported issues and the event's proximity in time and location have led to widespread speculation and online commentary.
3. <https://www.scenemag.co.uk/grindr-outage-during-charlie-kirk-memorial-sparks-satirical-frenzy/> - A significant Grindr outage was reported in Phoenix, Arizona, coinciding with the memorial service of conservative commentator Charlie Kirk on September 21, 2025. The event, held at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, attracted nearly 90,000 attendees, including prominent figures like President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance. Users in Phoenix, approximately nine miles from the stadium, began experiencing difficulties accessing Grindr, with Downdetector noting a dramatic spike in outage reports around 7 pm. Similar spikes were observed in other cities, including Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York. Social media platforms erupted with speculation and humour, with users joking that the conservative crowd had overwhelmed Grindr’s servers. This incident mirrors previous occurrences during Republican National Conventions, where Grindr experienced heavy crashes and increased anonymous users seeking quick hookups. The article references the 2016 RNC in Cleveland, where Grindr reported a 66% surge in local usage, and the 2024 RNC in Milwaukee, where similar slowdowns were observed. The piece concludes by noting that while Grindr did not officially confirm any outages during the Charlie Kirk memorial, the reported issues and the event's timing have led to widespread online commentary and speculation.
4. <https://www.primetimer.com/features/did-grindr-crash-at-the-charlie-kirk-memorial-arizona-outage-explained-as-netizens-react-in-hilarious-fashion> - On September 21, 2025, reports emerged of Grindr outages in Phoenix, Arizona, coinciding with the memorial service of conservative commentator Charlie Kirk. The event, held at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, attracted tens of thousands of attendees, including high-profile figures such as President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance. Users in Phoenix reported difficulties accessing Grindr, with Downdetector noting a significant increase in outage reports around 7 pm. Similar spikes were observed in other major cities, including Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York. Social media users reacted with humour, speculating that the influx of conservative attendees might have overwhelmed Grindr's servers. This incident mirrors previous occurrences during Republican National Conventions, where Grindr experienced increased traffic and occasional outages in host cities. The article references the 2016 RNC in Cleveland, where Grindr reported a 66% increase in local usage, and the 2024 RNC in Milwaukee, where users experienced similar issues. The piece concludes by noting that while Grindr did not officially confirm any outages during the Charlie Kirk memorial, the reported issues and the event's timing have led to widespread online commentary and speculation.
5. <https://www.out.com/news/charlie-kirk-grindr-outage> - On September 21, 2025, a memorial service for conservative commentator Charlie Kirk was held at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, attracting tens of thousands of attendees. Concurrently, Grindr users in Phoenix reported difficulties accessing the app, with Downdetector noting significant spikes in outage reports. While Grindr did not officially acknowledge any issues, the timing and location of the outages led to speculation that the influx of conservative attendees might have been a contributing factor. Similar patterns were observed during previous Republican National Conventions, where Grindr experienced increased traffic and occasional outages in host cities. The article highlights the correlation between large conservative events and Grindr's performance, noting that such occurrences have sparked online discussions and humorous reactions. The piece also references past instances, such as the 2016 RNC in Cleveland, where Grindr reported a 66% increase in local usage, and the 2024 RNC in Milwaukee, where users experienced similar issues. The article concludes by noting that while Grindr did not officially confirm any outages during the Charlie Kirk memorial, the reported issues and the event's proximity in time and location have led to widespread speculation and online commentary.
6. <https://www.queerty.com/youll-never-guess-what-charlie-kirks-memorial-service-reportedly-did-to-grindrs-server-20250922/> - On September 21, 2025, a memorial service for conservative commentator Charlie Kirk was held at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, attracting tens of thousands of attendees. Concurrently, Grindr users in Phoenix reported difficulties accessing the app, with Downdetector noting significant spikes in outage reports. While Grindr did not officially acknowledge any issues, the timing and location of the outages led to speculation that the influx of conservative attendees might have been a contributing factor. Similar patterns were observed during previous Republican National Conventions, where Grindr experienced increased traffic and occasional outages in host cities. The article highlights the correlation between large conservative events and Grindr's performance, noting that such occurrences have sparked online discussions and humorous reactions. The piece also references past instances, such as the 2016 RNC in Cleveland, where Grindr reported a 66% increase in local usage, and the 2024 RNC in Milwaukee, where users experienced similar issues. The article concludes by noting that while Grindr did not officially confirm any outages during the Charlie Kirk memorial, the reported issues and the event's proximity in time and location have led to widespread speculation and online commentary.