

2016 Legislative Agenda for Arizona Business

The Arizona Chamber Executives provide an avenue for chambers across the state to work together on local, state and federal issues. This annual legislative agenda represents shared business interests supported by chambers of commerce through the state of Arizona.

State issues

Education

- Advocate for new and increased financial resources for K-12 education programs to ensure Arizona has the qualified workforce it needs in the 21st Century.
- Support a modernization of the state's K-12 funding system, with an emphasis on encouraging the replication of grade-A educational models, especially those in low-income areas.
- Ensure that Arizona maintains the current high academic standards that prepare our students for college and career.
- Support funding that ensures Arizona students have robust career and technical education (CTE) options.

Transportation and Infrastructure

- Oppose sweeps from the Highway User Revenue Fund and other dedicated transportation funds into the general fund.
- Support infrastructure projects that maximize job creation and investment.
- Support, and call for, a broad and comprehensive evaluation of both short term and long term transportation funding challenges and solutions.
- Advocate for legislation, regulation and policies that recognize the electric power grid and other natural resources infrastructure delivery systems as assets requiring consistent maintenance, improvement and support through investments by all of those who use them.
- Encourage state policymakers to update policies for distributed generation systems that would distribute cost equitably.

Taxation

- Support tax, fee and fiscal policies that will attract new investments and bring jobs to Arizona.
- Support a reduction in business property taxes to help spur investment.
- Protect and support the full implementation of recent tax reforms, including TPT (sales tax) simplification and the elimination of TPT on manufacturers' electricity and natural gas consumption.
- Work with interested parties to come up with meaningful reform to the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System.

Regulations

- Continue to support the state regulatory moratorium.
- Promote a regulatory environment that provides timeliness and certainty for businesses without undue burdensome regulations on business owners.

Protect the Business Community's Freedom of Speech

- Protect the business community's ability to engage in political speech.
- Solidify the Secretary of State's position as the state's chief elections officer.

Quality of Life

- Support and participate in efforts to brand Arizona as a favorable environment for tourism, business location, expansion, and job creation.
- Strengthen Arizona's economy by encouraging increased public-private partnerships.

- Preserve the current funding level for tourism promotion via the Arizona Office of Tourism.
- Support ADOT and MVD in designing a state travel document that will allow Arizonans to board commercial flights.
- Support the reauthorization of the Arizona Commerce Authority.
- Advocate for the reinstatement of the Arizona Film Office.

Federal Issues

Regulatory

- Oppose regulatory efforts by the federal government that disparately and disproportionately impact Arizona, while supporting efforts to streamline regulations and ensure that Arizona's distinctive characteristics are reflected.
- Preserve a business owner's ability to manage it workplace and workforce without expanded federal intrusion.
- Advocate for the finalization of the federal tax code by November 30 of that tax year.

Military Assets

- Work with Arizona's congressional delegation and business community to promote Arizona's military installations and emphasize the ability of these installations to take on new missions.
- Oppose the United States Air Force desire to divest the A-10 Thunderbolt II from its inventory.

Public Lands

- Support legislation that would require the federal government to enter into an agreement with the state or any municipality that offers non-federal funds to reopen and temporarily operate public lands including national parks, national monuments and national recreation areas during a government shutdown.
- Continued support for the FLAME ACT and the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI).
- Support allocating a percentage of funds currently marked for suppression of forest fires to prevention of forest fires.

Immigration

- Continue to support comprehensive federal immigration reform.
- Support a dialogue with the Mexican government to expand and modernize U.S.-Mexico ports of entry.

Local issues

Wage Policies

- Work together to resist efforts at a local level to institute any mandatory equal wage laws or citywide minimum wage above the state-mandated minimum wage.
- Work together to resist efforts at a local level to institute any mandatory time off (Safe & Sick time).

Publicly Funded Elections

- Oppose any efforts by cities or towns to establish a publicly funded elections scheme for local election.

Endorsed By

Chamber endorsements are due no later than
December 7th, 2015.



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