Arizona Chamber EXECUTIVES

2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR BUSINESS



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ARIZONA CHAMBER EXECUTIVES: LEADERS IN PUBLIC POLICY

Arizona Chamber Executives (ACE) represents the leaders of chambers of commerce across the state of Arizona. The ACE membership reflects the diverse communities that make up our great state. Each year, our membership collaborates to establish a legislative agenda for business. This agenda provides our organizations guiding principles for advocacy that best represent Arizona's businesses.

Members of ACE draft the legislative agenda, which is presented to the broader membership at our annual conference. The membership reviews and provides input, ensuring that each community's voice is heard and represented. The membership then votes to approve the agenda and establishes it as ACE's official priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

Throughout the year, ACE members and leaders participate in weekly policy calls to monitor legislation and determine necessary advocacy efforts. This public policy process is open to all members of the organization, ensuring that each Chamber is represented.

ACE members follow these principles when advocating for our member businesses at the local, state, and federal levels. Our objective is to create and maintain a regulatory environment in Arizona that allows businesses to grow and thrive.

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STATE ISSUES

Arizona businesses have been instrumental in providing citizens with one of the highest standards of living, unparalleled economic prosperity, and unmatched generosity. We champion private property rights, financial freedom, economic growth, competitive markets, and limited government. Our legislative agenda is a testament to our belief that the health of the business community and the larger community are inseparable.

Education

- Advocate for financial investments and simplification of the P-20 education and public higher education funding formulas and programs, to ensure Arizona has the qualified workforce it needs in the 21st Century.
- Support funding and policies that ensure Arizona students and job creators have robust career and workforce pipeline options with an emphasis on support for CTED programming, adult education, and other related training initiatives.
- Support innovative solutions for increasing student access to technology.
- Continue to support Arizona's tradition of pro-school choice policies that include accountability measures.
- Support modernization of the K-12 and community college expenditure limitation formulas to better align with current and future revenue and expenditure forecasts.
- Support exploring an option to provide state funded pre-school and full-day kindergarten.
- Support efforts to expand childcare access for employers and educational institutions.

Transportation & Infrastructure

- Support infrastructure projects that encourage job creation and investment in Arizona's statewide interstate system, rural state highways and ports of entry.
- Support statewide and regional transportation solutions to address transportation funding challenges.
- Advocate for legislation, regulation and policies that recognize the electric power grid and all other natural resources and utility infrastructure delivery systems as assets requiring consistent maintenance, improvement, and support through investments by all users.
- Support additional digital connectivity opportunities and targeted investment throughout all of Arizona where necessary, including broadband through all available funding sources at the state and federal level.
- Support all utility infrastructure in our state including electricity, water, sewer, natural gas, solar/alternative energy, and communications.
- Support reasonable and cost-effective strategies to ensure Arizona has the water resources needed for continued economic growth while recognizing the unique needs of different areas of the state.
- Protect access to natural gas.
- Maintain electrical grid strength statewide allowing for adequate and improved generating capacity.
- Support policies and investments that promote reliable electric service that emphasizes resource adequacy, price stability, and consumer protection as a foundation of Arizona's continued economic success.
- Support the use of Securitization, a financial tool used to refinance utility assets, when appropriate, to save residential and business customers money.
- Advocate that State Lake Improvement Funds will continue to be distributed appropriately on a perpetual basis and not be swept for future budget shortfalls.

Taxation

- Oppose accounting gimmicks and fund sweeps as a budget balancing mechanism, especially related to transportation infrastructure.
- Support a taxation system that is, fair, consistent, easily administered, and equitable that will attract new investments and bring jobs to Arizona.
- Work with interested parties to come up with continued reforms to Arizona's public pension systems to reduce unfunded liabilities.
- Conform to federal income tax changes by January 31st of each year and discourage changes on income tax deadlines that require annual action from State Legislature.
- Support of continuous improvement of Department of Revenue policies & procedures to ensure tax collection accuracy, management, and system ease of use by taxpayers.
- Support legislation that allows Research & Development expenses to be fully expensed in the year incurred.
- Support the implementation of Inflation Reduction Act Clean Energy Tax Credit Policy which will spur investment in energy generation resources that will benefit Arizonans.

Legal & Regulatory Affairs

- Support and maintain a competitive regulatory environment with limited government interference that will place burdensome regulations on business owners.
- Support continuance for employers being "held harmless" for pandemic/contagious illness related unemployment claims and pandemic liability protection measures.
- Support legislation that protects businesses from frivolous lawsuits.
- Continue to advocate for a fair and transparent initiative process that reflects the will of all Arizonans while respecting the constitutional authority and duties of the Legislature.
- Protect the business community's ability to engage in political speech.
- Support expiration of state voter-approved initiatives every ten years.
- Support enforcement of municipal urban camping ordinances.

Economic Prosperity

- Support coordinated efforts to brand Arizona as a favorable environment for tourism, business location, expansion, and job creation, including film, multimedia production, arts, and culture.
- Strengthen Arizona's economy by encouraging increased public-private partnerships.
- Increase the funding level for tourism promotion for the State of Arizona, including the use of alternative funding methods and encourage the office to seek a chamber of commerce or other qualified private non-profit organization as the first option designation as a destination marketing organization (DMO).
- Support localized and income aligned solutions to provide housing that is affordable and sustainable, including improvements to the zoning process where feasible.
- Support clean energy initiatives and policies that bolster economic growth through the advancement and deployment of new and existing technologies.

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 their workplace and workforce without expanded federal intrusion.
- Advocate for annual finalization of the federal tax code by November 30th of that tax year.
- Promote policies that support trade and protect Arizona's competitive interests.
- Encourage utilization of Foreign-Trade Zones by streamlining administrative burdens.
- Oppose health care and prescription drug mandates that increase costs on small business. Advocate for, stability and certainty for the insurance marketplace and hospital systems. Support policies that protect the low-income and vulnerable. Oppose policies that shift expenses to the state or businesses and impede the private market.
- Support policies that allow chambers to provide group health and retirement benefit plans to their members.
- Oppose efforts to increase wage and benefit laws that are higher than the state minimums.
- Oppose legislation that unfairly shifts the balance of the federal workplace regulatory structure and limits employer rights, increases collective bargaining, and increases employer liability.
- Oppose the FTC's efforts to ban Noncompete Agreements, including existing agreements.
- Oppose the FTC's proposal to eliminate the current franchise business model.

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 sustain economic viability.

Natural Resources

- Support comprehensive state and federal solutions that protect Arizona's present and future water supply for sustained economic development.
- Support the Northern Arizona Forest Fund (NAFF) and National Forest Foundation (NFF) to help protect the state's forests and water supply through programs designed to improve forest health and water quality in the Salt and Verde River watersheds.
- Support allocating a percentage of funds currently marked for suppression of forest fires and wildland fires to prevention of forest and wildland fires.
- Support state management of federal lands during forest and wildland fires.
- Oppose efforts to designate land as national monuments.
- Support policies that ensure the Colorado River remains accessible for recreational watercraft.

- Protect Arizona's Colorado River allotment and the ability to effectively manage the allotment, including maintaining the reliability of those supplies for current and future use and include representation from Arizona's Colorado River communities in the process.
- Support policies and processes for research and development of alternative water source options (desalinization, wastewater treatment, excess transfers, etc.).
- Support innovative water storage solutions such as the Bartlett Dam Expansion Project.
- Support policies that advocate for Arizona's mining and agriculture industries.

Border Issues/Immigration

- Continue to support comprehensive federal immigration reform that encourages economic growth including visa reform to allow businesses to hire qualified talent legally and efficiently.
- Support federal reimbursement for states that incur higher costs for education, health care, and incarceration as a result of undocumented immigration.
- Support a dialogue with the Mexican government to expand and modernize U.S.-Mexico ports of entry that advocates for improvement and modernization.
- Advocate for enhanced border security that ensures our state is protected from the inflow of illegal drugs and human smuggling operations.

Endorsed By

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- Carefree Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce
- Chandler Chamber of Commerce
- Gilbert Chamber of Commerce
- Mesa Chamber of Commerce
- Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce
- Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce
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The City of Maricopa Chamber of Commerce
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- Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Glendale Chamber of Commerce
- Peoria Chamber of Commerce
- Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce

Yuma County Chamber of Commerce