

Lowering the Cost of Doing Business

As Arizona positions itself for a stronger economic future, government should enhance economic activity and reduce the costs of doing business in Arizona. State policies should provide a consistent and predictable environment to promote business growth and should not exceed federal requirements. Tax policies must enhance the business environment to promote job growth, diversification, and business expansion.

Energy and the Environment

- The Alliance supports state energy policies that emphasize cost effective and stable energy supplies.
- The Alliance urges any energy efficiency legislation to provide incentives and practical, multiple options for business.
- The Alliance supports air quality legislation that provides businesses and citizens with incentives and practical, multiple options and does not exceed federal requirements.
- The Alliance supports traditional sources of energy generation and is opposed to the EPA “war on coal” because of its impact on Arizona businesses. The Alliance opposes legislative changes to Arizona energy policy that jeopardize Arizona's energy infrastructure and access to affordable, proven, stable, sufficient energy sources and either exceeds federal requirements or diminishes Arizona's control over its own policy, regulation and laws concerning the production, delivery and cost of energy.
- The Alliance supports green initiatives including clean and renewable energy but opposes mandates to accomplish those goals.
- The Alliance supports appropriate action to ensure an adequate supply, necessary infrastructure and transmission of gasoline, broadband, electricity, natural gas, water and other critical resources to fuel our state’s economic vitality.
- The Alliance supports the continued viability of the Central Arizona Project including protection of the Navajo Generating Station.
- The Alliance continues to support the fundamental concepts of the 1980 Groundwater Management Act. The Alliance also supports statewide development of long-term sustainable water supplies, coordination between active management areas, and encouragement of direct groundwater recharge projects and promotion of water conservation.
- The Alliance continues to support efforts, such as the Arizona Water Banking Authority, that will help enable Arizona to fully utilize its entire Colorado River entitlement. Full utilization of Arizona's entitlement will help to protect the state's Colorado River supply.

Health Care

- The Alliance believes any exchange/marketplace program should act as a product transparency tool, not place unnecessary burdens on businesses, and encourage a competitive insurance market.
- The Alliance opposes health insurance mandates.
- The Alliance encourages innovative measures to lower costs to businesses in providing healthcare for employees.
- The Alliance supports reasonable Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) payment rates that cover hospital costs and would minimize hidden/shifted health care costs to employers.
- The Alliance supports restoration of the AHCCCS childless adult population provided federal matching funds are available and the long-term fiscal health of the state is protected.

Taxes

- The Alliance urges the Legislature to consider responsible well-balanced tax reform which promotes the long-term fiscal strength of the state. Any legislative amendments or referendums regarding taxation should promote a strong, viable business climate in Arizona.
- As an economic stimulus mechanism for small businesses, the Alliance advocates raising the business personal property tax exemption threshold.
- When tax-supported funds are not being used for their intended purpose, the tax and fund should be abolished.
- The Alliance is opposed to passage of a Taxpayers’ Bill of Rights (TABOR) or similar measures that limit flexibility in funding decisions to provide services to our population.
- The Alliance urges the Legislature to reduce business property taxes in order to remain globally competitive.
- The Alliance is opposed to business tax increases including the elimination of current business tax credits or business tax exemptions.
- The Alliance supports research and development tax credits to encourage industry innovation and ensure a globally competitive position.
- The Alliance urges the Legislature to create financing mechanisms to improve Arizona’s competitive position for business attraction, retention and expansion.
- The Alliance opposes changes in the formula that would reduce the percentage of state shared revenues payable to cities and towns and opposes repayment requirements back to the State.
- The Alliance asks the Legislature to expedite consideration of the annual conformity legislation to allow businesses to prepare tax returns knowing Arizona has conformed to federal law.
- The Alliance supports continued efforts to address business concerns regarding the TPT process.
- The Alliance supports a state transaction privilege tax on internet sales.
- The Alliance urges the legislature to support Congress repealing archaic International Trade in Arms Regulations (ITAR) and tariff licensing/fee regulations that impede U.S. companies competing globally through the Export Control Act and the US Job Creation and Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2013.

Who We Are

Representing more than 5,500 member firms from the Apache Junction, Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, Queen Creek, Scottsdale and Tempe Chambers of Commerce since 1999. We collaborate to advance the common business interests in the East Valley.

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Representative Warren Petersen (R-Gilbert)

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2014 EVCCA Legislative Priorities

Initiative Reform

The Alliance supports periodic sunset review and reauthorization of voter-approved initiatives.

The Alliance supports efforts to increase requirements for ballot initiatives including clearly communicating the implications of Arizona’s Voter Protection Act.

Workforce

The Alliance supports cost-effective policies that ensure a well-educated and prepared workforce.

The Alliance supports medical care and administrative reforms that attempt to decrease workers’ compensation costs.

The Alliance supports strategic investments in Arizona State University, community colleges and other public universities.

Taxes

The Alliance urges the Legislature to create financing mechanisms to improve Arizona’s competitive position for business attraction, retention and expansion.

Legislative Representation

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Lowering the Cost of Doing Business Continued

Tort Reform

- The Alliance supports legal reforms that allow for appropriate compensation for substantiated damages and reduce frivolous litigation and costs to Arizona businesses.
- The Alliance urges significant tort reform measures including limits on damages to reduce the costs of healthcare and health insurance. Healthcare-related tort reform will encourage attraction and retention of a qualified healthcare workforce.

Transportation

- The Alliance supports connecting employees and goods to job centers through a multimodal transportation system with international, statewide and multiregional transportation options.
- The Alliance urges use of innovative transportation solutions that maximize multimodal connectivity, such as public-private partnerships, commuter rail and other high capacity transit, to improve movement of people and goods in the East Valley and Pinal County.
- The Alliance is opposed to any shifting or repealing of funds currently designated for the development and maintenance of the East Valley regional transportation system. Transportation project construction should be based on programmed projects, congestion relief, air quality compliance and should be multimodal in nature.
- More state and federal transportation dollars should be appropriated to the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale metropolitan statistical area and northeast Pinal County based on revenue generated, vehicle miles traveled and population.
- The Alliance recognizes the regional airport system as an economic catalyst. The Alliance opposes efforts to reduce funding that will negatively impact operations or expansion and strongly supports legislation to advance the missions of these facilities.
- The Alliance supports statewide efforts to increase Arizona’s position in the aerospace and defense sector with unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) at the forefront. Additionally, the Alliance supports efforts to designate Arizona as a UAS national test range location.
- The Alliance supports continued construction of the regional freeway system with priority given to the Williams Gateway (SR 24) and the South Mountain Freeway (Loop 202).
- The Alliance supports the planning and development of the proposed I-11, SR 88 and other international trade routes through Arizona.
- The Alliance supports policies that ensure state and local agencies develop and enforce regulations in a fair, expeditious and consistent manner, including oversight of right-of-ways.



Building a Trained Workforce

Arizona businesses are in competition with companies within the United States and throughout the world. Any K-12 funding reforms should focus on maintenance, operations, desegregation, and capital with the goal of producing a well-educated, highly skilled workforce that elevates Arizona’s ability to compete globally.

Education

- The Alliance supports cost-effective policies that ensure a well-educated and prepared workforce.
- The Alliance supports K-12 education funding reform.
- The Alliance supports rigorous education standards and assessments.
- The Alliance urges greater emphasis on civics, entrepreneurship, research methodology and business education to prepare students for informed citizenship and understanding of business issues.
- The Alliance urges a greater emphasis on the Arizona education system on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to compete aggressively in the global economy.
- The Alliance urges innovative methods to increase access of technology to advance education delivery at all grade levels including universities and community colleges.
- The Alliance supports an innovative and competitive K-12 education market that includes traditional district schools, public charter schools, private schools and online learning.
- The Alliance supports a modernization of K-12 student tracking systems that ensures accurate attendance counts on a daily basis.

Higher Education

- The Alliance supports strategic investments in Arizona State University, community colleges and other public universities.
- The Alliance supports equitable funding of Arizona’s state universities.

Workforce

- The Alliance supports maintaining Arizona’s status as a “right-to-work” and “employment-at-will” state.
- The Alliance opposes changes to workers’ compensation benefits that increase costs to employers.
- The Alliance supports medical care and administrative reforms that attempt to decrease workers’ compensation costs.
- The Alliance supports responsible legislative and administrative reforms that ensure the effectiveness of the Arizona unemployment insurance program that reduce business costs.
- The Alliance supports guaranteeing employees the right to vote by secret ballot in labor union organization decisions.
- The Alliance asks the Legislature to urge Congress to establish a program providing an adequate legal workforce while maintaining the integrity of our national borders and providing protection of the rights and privileges of United States citizens and legal residents.

Increasing Private Sector Jobs

Long-term economic competitiveness is critical to Arizona’s success. Business revenues drive job growth and government budgets. Arizona must implement policies to position itself to be the state of choice for relocating and growing companies.

Economic Development

- The Alliance believes local governments must have the ability to offer economic development incentives.
- The Alliance supports additional job creation measures including workforce training and fiscally responsible base industry property tax incentives.
- The Alliance supports increased funding for tourism marketing and business attraction, retention, and expansion through public/private partnerships.
- The Alliance supports continued emphasis on the importance of job training and workforce development for current Arizona employers and small businesses.

Efficient and Effective Government

Streamlined, transparent and improved government processes are crucial to the success of Arizona and its businesses. Government decisions are best left to those closest to the governed unless detrimental to the business climate. Initiative reform that reflects the will of Arizona citizens and public pension reform will create efficiencies and help restore the public’s faith in government.

Government Processes

- The Alliance believes policy and appropriations should be accomplished by elected legislators, not through unnecessary referendums, executive orders or multi-state coalitions.
- State services should be privatized if they can be comparably and appropriately delivered at equal or less cost.
- The Alliance opposes actions by the State that place additional burdens on businesses by preempting federal law.
- The Alliance supports a referendum suspending automatic spending increases for voter protected funds in a fiscal year when revenues do not meet projections.
- The Alliance supports regular and periodic legislative reviews of and revisions to budgetary formulas to ensure accountability and appropriate funding.
- The Alliance supports streamlining Arizona Corporation Commission business creation processes including online filing, publication requirement removal and same-day or next-day service.
- The Alliance supports streamlining state government processes including paper reductions, enterprise computer system upgrades, process improvements, placing statutorily required public notices online and rightsizing state government.
- The Alliance supports moving Arizona’s primary elections for congressional, statewide, legislative and county offices to May.
- The Alliance urges the Legislature to refer to the voters the question of amending legislative terms of office. To provide continuity in the state legislative process, the Alliance supports increasing the terms for state senators from two to four years with staggered elections and increasing term limits for both chambers from eight to twelve years.

Efficient and Effective Government Continued

Government Processes Continued

- The Alliance supports a transparent and accountable campaign finance system free from taxpayer-supported public funding.
- The Alliance opposes rollovers and sweeps of dedicated funds as a mechanism for balancing the budget.
- The Alliance is opposed to regulatory fee increases that are used as revenue generation and not reflective of administrative cost recovery.
- The Alliance supports continued restructuring of public employee total compensation packages.
- The Alliance opposes any government regulatory reform that has the potential to slow development or permit processes at the local level. Efficient government minimizes barriers for business growth and expansion. Government regulations should be used sparingly and only when necessary.
- The Alliance supports development of offsite enrollment in the “Request to Speak” system to expand participation in the process and allow greater access to the disabled community.

Initiative Reform

- The Alliance supports periodic sunset review and reauthorization of voter-approved initiatives.
- The Alliance supports efforts to increase requirements for ballot initiatives including: advancing filing dates; permitting legislative changes to initiatives with voter ratification; increasing the number of required signatures; clearly communicating the implications of Arizona’s Voter Protection Act; establishing county requirements for signature collection similar to that of statewide offices; requiring legislative council to review and title initiatives prior to signature collection; and requiring those who sign a petition to complete the entire data line.

Land Management

- The Alliance encourages a balanced approach to development, recreational use and preservation of State Trust land.
- The Alliance supports zoning and land-use around military installations and airports and should advance the mission of those facilities.
- The Alliance supports reasonable reforms to the State Land Department that would modernize its operations and maximize the economic return for the State Trust Land beneficiaries.
- The Alliance supports a balanced emphasis on local control of planning, orderly growth and open space preservation.
- The Alliance supports increased collaboration and coordination between counties and municipalities and the State Land Department in land-use decisions and disposition timetables.
- The Alliance supports innovative measures to fund ecotourism in state parks such as the successful model at Lost Dutchman State Park.

