

# BUSINESS PRIORITIES

## 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



### WEST VALLEY CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ALLIANCE

Advancing the shared business interests, programs, and benefits of the Buckeye Valley, Glendale, Peoria, Southwest Valley, Surprise Regional, and Wickenburg Chambers of Commerce.

# **WE ARE LED BY PRIVATE-SECTOR EMPLOYERS AND REPRESENT BUSINESSES OF ALL SIZES AND SECTORS.**

## **WE ARE THE VOICE OF THE WEST VALLEY BUSINESS COMMUNITY REPRESENTING ALL WEST VALLEY BUSINESSES.**

**Four key positions of the West Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliances (WVCCA) set forth in this document are considered crucial to build Arizona's economy.**

### **Reducing the Cost of Doing Business**

In order for Arizona to develop a robust economic future, government should promote economic activity and reduce the costs of doing business. State policies should create a predictable environment to promote business growth and not extend beyond federal requirements. Tax policy is critical and must strengthen the business environment to promote job growth, business development, and diversification.

### **Increasing the Trained Workforce**

Arizona businesses compete in a global marketplace. A trained and educated workforce is necessary for innovation and business development. A highly skilled and well-educated workforce allows Arizona businesses to compete globally. CTE and JTED programs bring businesses to our communities. These training opportunities are as equally important as our state universities and community colleges. Training and education are of paramount importance to building a workforce to support Arizona's growing economy.

### **Creating New Job Growth in the Private Sector**

A coordinated and thoughtful economic development strategy that will increase the growth of existing businesses and bring new companies to Arizona is fundamental to guarantee Arizona's success. Business expansion produces revenues to drive job growth and increase government budgets. Arizona must enact policies to be the first choice for companies that are growing or relocating.

### **Excellent Government**

Reducing business costs and simplifying government processes are imperative for the formation and expansion of Arizona businesses. Government decisions are best left to those closest to the governed unless detrimental to the business climate. Initiative reform that accurately conveys the will of Arizona citizens and businesses, rather than out of state interests, is crucial to create excellence in our state government.



# THE ALLIANCE PRIORITIES

The following legislative agenda outlines a variety of issues that directly impact the ability of West Valley companies to grow their businesses. These statements hold true at many levels of government. The Alliance is a collaborative organization that advocates a united voice at the State and Federal levels. Each Chamber individually advocates at their local municipal level and this document is not designed to supersede the local Chamber's ability to do so; instead, it is shared as an outline of important matters that affect the West Valley business community.

**The legislative agenda below identifies critical issues that directly impact the ability of West Valley companies to expand their businesses and thrive.**

## State Issues

### Education

- Advocate for financial investments for P-20 education and public higher education programs, including the New Economy Initiative, to ensure Arizona has the qualified workforce it needs in the 21st Century.
- Support a modernization and simplification of the state's P-20 funding system, with an emphasis on encouraging the replication of high performing educational models, especially those in low-income areas and rural areas.
- Support funding and policies that ensure Arizona students and job creators have robust career and workforce pipeline options with an emphasis on support for JTED and CTE programming.
- Support career pathway and related training initiatives and programs within the Arizona@Work program aimed at furthering adult education and retraining an aging workforce, including support for community colleges, apprenticeship programs, and post-secondary education.
- Support innovative solutions for increasing student access to technology to help improve student result scores, as well as further advance remote-learning technology at all grade levels.
- 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.

## Transportation and Infrastructure

- Support infrastructure projects that maximize 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 that focus on a "user pays" model that incorporates long-term, forward-thinking, and sustainable funding streams.
- 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.
- Oppose efforts to limit or eliminate access to natural gas.
- Maintain electrical grid strength statewide allowing for adequate and improved generating capacity.



## Taxation

- Oppose accounting gimmicks and fund sweeps as a budget balancing mechanism, especially related to transportation infrastructure.
- Support a taxation system that is globally competitive, 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.

## Legal and Regulatory Affairs

- Support free market enterprises and the right of business to determine wage and benefit policies without undue government interference.
- Oppose government burdens on private workplace management including regulations on the ability to hire, terminate and retain employees or obtain licensure or business ownership.
- Maintain a competitive regulatory environment that provides timeliness and certainty for businesses without unduly burdensome regulations on business owners.
- Oppose OSHA and other government entities unilaterally expanding the definition of “safe work environment” to include contact with pandemic/contagious illnesses.
- Advocate for business and community pandemic/contagious illness liability protection measures at both the state and federal level.
- Support continuance for employers being “held harmless” for pandemic/contagious illness related unemployment claims.
- Support legislation that protects businesses from frivolous lawsuits.
- Support Arizona’s national image through sound legislation including modernizing policies to protect Arizona’s diverse community and population.
- 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 reauthorization of state voter-approved initiatives every ten years.

## Economic Prosperity

- Support efforts to brand Arizona as a favorable environment for tourism, business location, expansion, and job creation, including film and multimedia production.
- Increase the funding level for tourism promotion for the State of Arizona and encourage the office to seek a chamber of commerce or other qualified private nonprofit organization as the first option designation as a destination marketing organization (DMO).
- Advocate for policies that encourage economic development and increased private-public partnerships throughout all of Arizona.
- Advocate for the zoning of land such that it might be built upon to support Arizona’s growing population and industry.
- Support market driven solutions to provide workforce housing solutions that are affordable and sustainable.

## 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, including FMLA mandates.
- Advocate for annual finalization of the federal tax code by November 30 of that tax year.
- Promote policies that support trade that protect Arizona's competitive interests.
- Advocate for health care legislation that removes mandates on small business, provides stability and certainty for the individual insurance marketplace and hospital systems, protects the low-income and vulnerable, and does not cost shift expenses to the state or businesses and does not impede the private market.
- Support policies that allow chambers to provide group health plans to their members through the association health plan model.
- Oppose legislation that unfairly shifts workplace regulation power to the federal government and increases collective bargaining
- Oppose efforts to increase wage and benefit laws that are higher than the state minimums.



### 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 and expand economic development.

## Natural Resources

- Support legislation that would require the federal government to enter 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.
- Support comprehensive state and federal solutions that protect Arizona's present and future water supply for sustained economic development for all affected industries.
- 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 to prevention of forest 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.
- Support policies that advocate for Arizona's mining and agriculture industries.

## Immigration

- Continue to support federal immigration reform that encourages economic growth.
- Support a dialogue with the Mexican government to expand and modernize U.S.- Mexico ports of entry that advocates for improvement, modernization, and increased security measures at the border.

# WHO WE ARE

## OUR ALLIANCE REPRESENTS THE FOLLOWING CITIES:

Avondale  
Buckeye  
El Mirage  
Glendale  
Goodyear

Litchfield Park  
Peoria  
Sun City  
Sun City West  
Surprise

Tolleson  
Waddell  
Wickenburg  
Wittmann  
Youngtown

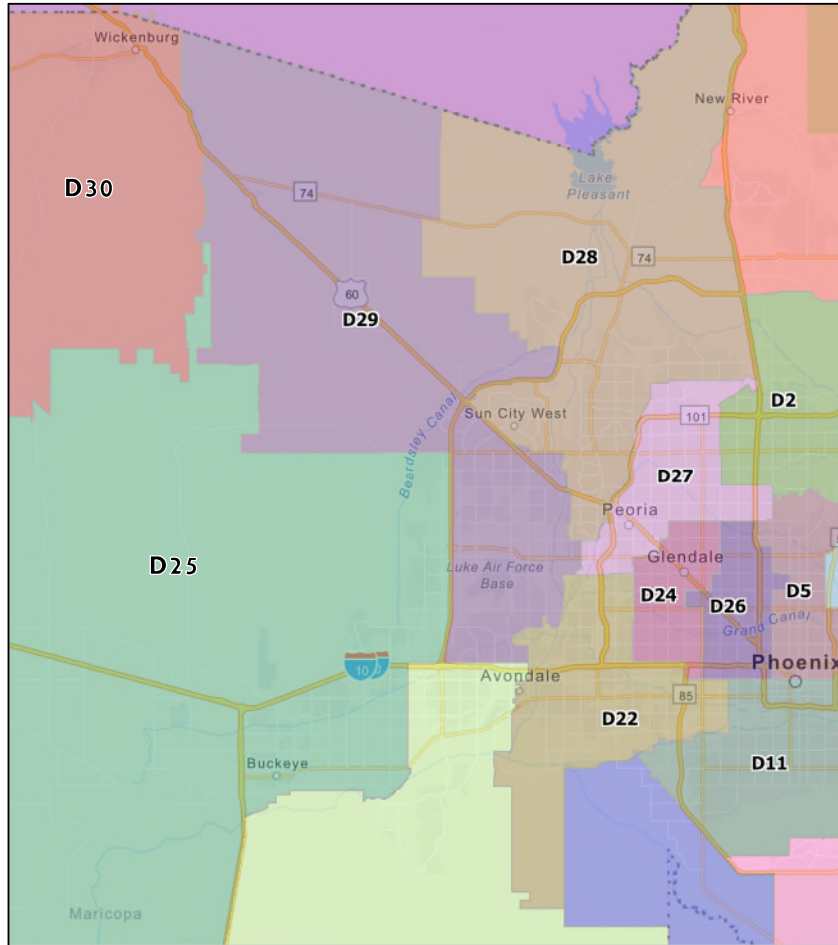
## OUR LOBBYIST:

Alexis Glascock represents the West Valley Chamber of Commerce Alliance's interests at the Capitol and with State Agencies. She has over 20 years of public affairs experience representing business interests. Alexis' firm, Fennemore, is one of the Southwest's oldest and most well-respected law firms. Their professional lobbying services enhance our work at all levels, so we can more effectively support the collective interests of businesses in the West Valley!





# LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS



## WVCCA LEGISLATORS

Sen. Eva Diaz (D - LD #22)  
Rep. Leezah Elsa Sun (D - LD #22)  
Rep. Lupe Contreras (D - LD #22)  
Sen. Anna Hernandez (R - LD #24)  
Rep. Analise Ortiz (D - LD #24)  
Rep. Lydia Hernandez (D - LD #24)  
Sen. Sine Kerr (R - LD #25)  
Rep. Tim Dunn (R - LD #25)  
Rep. Michael Carbone (R - LD #25)

Sen. Anthony Kern (R - LD #27)  
Rep. Ben Toma (R - LD #27)  
Rep. Kevin Payne (R - LD #27)  
Sen. Frank Carroll (R - LD #28)  
Rep. Beverly Pingerelli (R - LD #28)  
Rep. David Livingston (R - LD #28)  
Sen. Janae Shamp (R - LD #29)  
Rep. Steve Montenegro (R - LD #29)  
Rep. Austin Smith (R - LD #29)  
Sen. Sonny Borrelli (R - LD #30)  
Rep. Leo Biasiucci (R - LD #30)  
Rep. John Gillette (R - LD #30)

# WHO WE ARE

## WVCCA West Valley Chamber of Commerce Alliance

We represent more than 3,500 members; our pro-business agenda benefits ALL business in the West Valley. Hence the tag line: We Are the VOICE of the West Valley Business.

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