

# WEST VALLEY CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ALLIANCE



## BUSINESS PRIORITIES 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### WEST VALLEY CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ALLIANCE

Providing coordination of shared programs and benefits to advance the common business interests of the Buckeye Valley, Glendale, Peoria, Southwest Valley, Surprise Regional, and Wickenburg Chambers of Commerce.

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**Four key areas influence the West Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance's (commonly known as the Alliance) specific positions contained within this document and are considered crucial to build Arizona's economy.**

### **Lowering the Cost of Doing Business**

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

### **Building a Trained Workforce**

Arizona businesses are in competition with companies within the United States and throughout the world. 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 bringing business and education together are critical in developing a pipeline of future workforce.

### **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, which includes a vibrant education system. Future emerging technologies regulations must not place undue harm on the current business environment.

### **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 businesses, not out of state interests, as well as public pension reform will create efficiencies and help restore the public's faith in government.

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# 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 an organization that advocates a united voice at the State and Federal levels through collaborative efforts with the Dorn Policy Group. 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 East Valley businesses.

## Election Reform

- Establishing higher thresholds to change the Arizona Constitution or to implement statutes via a ballot initiative under the Voter Protection Act.

## Workforce

- Maintaining Arizona's status as a "right-to-work" and "employment-at-will" state.
- Preserving a business's ability to manage its workplace and workforce without unnecessary government intrusion or regulation.

## Education

- Having an innovative and competitive P-12 education marketplace that includes traditional district schools, public charter schools, private schools and online learning with simplified, stable, equitable funding.
- Developing a revised, comprehensive K-12 funding formula that will address critical issues including, but not limited to the following: teacher shortages; school construction; facility maintenance; incentive pay for teachers; student testing outcomes; graduate rates; dropout rates; reading levels; workforce readiness; modernized student tracking systems pertaining to attendance counts; Career and Technical Education (CTE); and Joint Technological Education Districts (JTEDs).

## Taxation

- Passing clear and concise tax law that allows businesses to understand their liability without subjective agency interpretation.
- Correcting Department of Revenue online tax submission processes to eliminate arbitrary penalties for businesses.

## Transportation

- Securing the statutory authority from the Arizona Legislative to allow reauthorization of the Regional Transportation Plan.