

The East Valley Chamber of Commerce Alliance 2020 Legislative Priorities

The East Valley Chamber of Commerce is made up of seven Chambers of Commerce that include Apache Junction, Queen Creek, Gilbert, Mesa, Tempe, Scottsdale and Carefree Cave Creek. At our Legislative Breakfast on December 19, 2019 the Alliance was able to introduce our 2020 agenda to members of the Arizona Senate and House of Representatives.

As a partner in the East Valley Chambers of Commerce I would like to introduce you to our 2020 Legislative Priorities.

The following legislative priorities outline a variety of issues that directly impact the ability of companies to grow their businesses. These statements hold true on 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 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 our businesses.

Employer Rights

- Employer rights are under siege and Arizona needs to take a strong stand to implement protections that will maintain Arizona's status as a "right-to-work" and "employment-at-will" state.
- Preserving a business's ability to implement and enforce its workplace policies and workforce pay/benefits without unnecessary government intrusion or regulation, including out of state efforts to diminish Arizona employer rights through ballot initiatives.

Election Reform

- Refer to the voters a modification of Prop 105 that establishes a supermajority threshold permitting legislative changes to unintended consequences of initiative measures passed at the ballot including a requirement of voter ratification every ten years.

Swift Federal Action

- Immediate passage of the United States-Mexico-Canada *USMCA) Agreement.
- Reauthorize the federal infrastructure plan (currently known as FAST Act) in 2020 and identify long-term financing solution to modernize America's infrastructure system.

Criminal Justice Reform

- Reasonable efforts to reduce costs within the correctional system and reforms to reduce recidivism by providing skills training to improve the reintegration of those leaving prison into the workforce.

Education

- Having an innovative and competitive K-12 education marketplace that includes traditional district schools, public charter schools, and online learning with simplified, stable, equitable funding.
- Continued measurement of our state's education outcomes from early childhood through college and career.
- Stable, consistent, and appropriate education funding that enhances economic development, CTED programs, graduation rate and school safety.
- Lowering the cost of doing business through improved transparency processes dealing with consistent audits for all public-school systems, construction costs and open bids.

Transportation

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

The entire agenda can be found on the Chamber website, www.carefreecavecreek.org, under the Advocacy tab on the top left of the page. You can also find comprehensive information about what the Alliance supports and opposes.