



BUSINESS PRIORITIES

2023 Legislative Session

The Voice of East Valley Business

Representing 5,000 member firms with a collected voice at the State and Federal levels since 1999.

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Four key areas
influence the East
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.

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LOWERING THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS

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.

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BUILDING A TRAINED WORKFORCE

East Valley businesses need a skilled and educated workforce as they respond to and prepare for continued innovation and automation. A demand-driven design of career pathways for students and workers is essential in filling the skills gap, retaining talent, and building the talent pipelines in alignment with our businesses. Due to the expansion and contraction of occupations and industries in the East Valley, lifelong learning is needed to obtain new and necessary skills throughout a career, which may include a combination of certifications, credentials and microcredentials, and degreed opportunities. Additionally, a realignment in learning modalities is needed as students, educators, and employers discover the benefits of varied, personalized educational experiences and platforms.



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.

The Alliance Priorities

The following legislative priorities outlines a variety of issues that directly impact the ability of East 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 Dorn Policy Group, Inc. 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. It is a shared outline of important matters that affect East Valley businesses. The Alliance supports:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Creative and appropriate solutions to attainable housing while maintaining local control over zoning and land use decisions. Municipal and state economic development plans, through local planning and zoning processes, respect the private property rights of owners and ensure that General Plans are implemented as adopted.

PROTECTING EMPLOYER'S WORKPLACE POLICIES

Arizona's status as a "right-to-work" and "employment-at-will" state.

EDUCATION

A proper long-term solution to the K-12 aggregate expenditure limit that eliminates the annual need to adjust the cap, allows for proper local budgeting, and respects the will of the voters.

TRANSPORTATION

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

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Economic Development

The Alliance SUPPORTS

- •
- Additional job creation measures including workforce training, retraining, and fiscally responsible tax incentives.
- Development of a qualified workforce, including support for certifications, credentials and micro-credentials, and degreed opportunities.
- Programs and agreements that include fair trade opportunities for U.S. businesses easing their ability to compete globally, including the EX-IM Bank.
- •
- Protection of Arizona's image as a favorable environment for business location and expansion, job creation and tourism.
- • •
- Advanced manufacturing including semiconductors, medical devices, and clean fuels.
- The Defense and Aerospace industry as an economic engine for Arizona, and a fiscally responsible defense budget which protects national security while eliminating automatic sequestration budget reductions.
- •
- Continued funding for business attraction, retention, expansion, and tourism marketing, film and multi-media attraction.
- •
- Economic development incentives that improve Arizona's competitive position for business attraction, retention and expansion.



Creative and appropriate solutions to attainable housing while maintaining
local control over zoning and land use decisions. Municipal and state economic
development plans, through local planning and zoning processes, respect the
private property rights of owners and ensure that General Plans are implemented
as adopted.



Education (K-12)

- • •
- 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, CTE programs, graduation rates, 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.
- •
- 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 (CTED).
- •
- An innovative, world-class school system that uses rigorous education standards and assessments with an emphasis on STEAM, history, civics and business education. Our graduates should be nationally recognized, college and career ready, financially literate and prepared to compete aggressively in the global marketplace.
- •
- New approaches to funding Arizona's public education system that provide adequate resources by thoroughly evaluating State Trust Lands maximization, equity of crossdelivery models pursuant to financial reporting, student transportation, special needs students' requirements and reconsideration of districts' access to property taxes.
- •
- The Arizona Education Progress Meter, which elevates a set of widely accepted education indicators by which Arizonans can measure our state's progress in education from early childhood education through college and career.
- •
- A proper long-term solution to the K-12 aggregate expenditure limit that eliminates the annual need to adjust the cap, allows for proper local budgeting, and respects the will of the voters.

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Education (Post-secondary)

- •
- Strengthening public universities with a stable funding model based on the state funding half of the cost to educate resident students, supporting critical capital projects, and enhanced flexibility to ensure access for qualified students, world-class research capabilities and an excellent workforce preparation.
- •
- Community colleges creating affordable work and education pathways. The districts should have the ability to invest in appropriate non-tax revenue opportunities arising from entrepreneurial research by faculty, staff and students to assist in achieving an affordable education.
- •
- Strategic investments in Arizona State University's "New Economy Initiative" to enhance the Arizona economy, and comparable investments in community colleges and other public universities.
- •
- Equitable funding of Arizona's state universities.
- Continued emphasis on the importance of job training and workforce development to support the needs of Arizona employers and small businesses.



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Election Reform

- Referring to the voters a modification of Proposition 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.
 Reauthorization of state voter-approved initiatives every ten years.
 The establishment of a supermajority threshold for voter protection of measures passed at the ballot.
 Reforms to the Proposition 105 system that allows 2/3 of the legislature to change a ballot measure rather than 3/4 without the need to further the purpose.
 Permitting legislative changes to initiatives with voter ratification.
 - Raising accountability/transparency requirements for ballot initiative campaign management and signature collectors:
 - Increased penalties and enforcement against committees that have committed campaign finance violations.
 - ° Increasing the number of required signatures.
 - ° Statutory mechanisms that discourage paid petition circulators.
 - Establishing regional requirements for signature collection in comparable proportions to that of statewide offices allowing for broad-based consensus amongst the electorate.-
 - Requiring Legislative Council to review and title initiatives prior to signature collection.
 - A referendum suspending automatic spending increases for voter-protected funds in a fiscal year when revenues do not meet projections.

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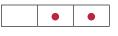
Energy and the Environment

- State energy policies that encourage the continued development and maintenance of statewide energy infrastructure such as generation, transmission and distribution facilities in order to ensure safe, affordable and reliable energy supplies.
- Policies that recognize the complexity of energy resource planning decisions by Arizona utilities; the existing regulatory framework and unique processes by which utilities are governed; and the critical importance of retaining utilities' ability to control costs which ensures affordable and reliable power for consumers.
- Water management efforts to protect and maximize the full use of Arizona's
 Colorado River entitlement including the implementation of the Colorado River Basin
 Drought Contingency Plan, water banking and conservation efforts to mitigate future
 water shortages, and the reconsultation of the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for
 the Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations of Lake Powell and Lake
 Mead, and encouraging conservation efforts with all states in the Colorado River
 Basin to stabilize the system.
- • •
- Investments in water infrastructure and improvements to build resilience throughout water supplies from outside the state.
- Modifications to Bartlett Dam to ensure an adequate water supply for our future needs.
- WIFA to ensure a transparent process is in place for the investment of state and federal funds in projects aimed at augmentation, conservation, and reuse of water supplies.
- • •
- Reasonable air, water quality and energy efficiency policies that provide practical, multiple options for businesses and that do not exceed federal requirements.
- •
- Facilitating the active management and thinning of Arizona's federal and state
 forest lands to improve and protect watershed health through support for continued
 collaboration efforts with state and federal agencies such as the Four Forest
 Restoration Initiative, public-private partnerships, investment in forest restoration
 projects, economic development programs to support the attraction, retention and
 expansion of forest products industry.
- •
- Maintaining Arizona's primacy and role under the Clean Air Act as the state works with the EPA to meet federal regulations.

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•	•	•	Appropriate legislation, regulation and policies that recognize value in the electric
	1	l	power grid as an asset requiring consistent maintenance, improvement and support
			through investments by all of those who use and operate the grid.
	•		Policies that distribute system costs equitably by creating mechanisms that recover
			grid costs from distributed generation customers, enhances cost transparency, and
			minimize cost shifting between consumer classes to ensure all customers pay a fair
			and equitable share of costs to maintain the grid and to keep it operating reliably at
	_		all times.
•	•	•	Appropriate action to ensure an adequate supply, necessary infrastructure and
			transmission of gasoline, broadband, electricity, natural gas, water and other critical
	1		resources to fuel our state's economic vitality.
•	•	•	The protection of Arizona's critical energy infrastructure, including but not limited to
	1	1	the generation, transmission and distribution assets already operating.
	•		Programs and rates that encourage customers to manage their peak power usage to
	T		help control overall system costs and maintain affordable power in Arizona.
•	•	•	The 1980 Arizona Groundwater Management Act, including the 100-year assured
			water supply requirement for development. Arizona's water needs are vastly different
			from those of the northeast U.S. and are best left to State management. 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 on a state level.
			Cost-effective clean energy initiatives and policies that bolster economic growth
			through the advancement and development of new and existing technologies.
			Appropriate incentives for clean fuels.
			Appropriate uses of technology to address environmental concerns.
			A balanced energy portfolio.
			The Alliance OPPOSES
	•	•	Policies that prevent consumers and businesses from accessing natural gas for their
			home-comfort and business needs.
•	•	•	Mandates to achieve "green" initiatives.

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Government Processes



- Special district and local government transparency data and metrics_to ensure private sector services are properly considered.
- • •
- 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.
- • •
- Reasonable measures that ensure proper agency implementation of law.
- Federal agencies operating within their boundaries as directed by Congress. All rules and regulations should be thoroughly vetted as to their economic implications under the Administrative Procedures Act.
- •
- Modernization of the Department of Revenue, allowing the agency to provide appropriate data and service delivery to taxpayers and customers.
- •
- Incrementally reducing state and federal debt, obligations and unmitigated growth of current entitlement programs.
- • •
- Streamlining and improving government processes including placing statutorily required public notices online.
- • •
- Effective communication between government departments and modernization of service delivery to businesses including cost-effective computer system upgrades.



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•	•	•	 The abolition of publicly funded elections at the state and local level.
•	•	•	Legislation that provides information and security designed to shield businesses from
			cyber-threats while protecting their rights to privacy. Cybersecurity information-
			sharing legislation must include robust safeguards for businesses that voluntarily
			exchange threat data with their peers and government partners.
	•	•	 Privatizing services if they can be comparably and appropriately delivered at equal or less cost.
	•	•	 Policy and appropriations being accomplished by elected legislators, not through
			unnecessary ballot measures, executive orders or multi-state coalitions.
	•		 Increasing the terms for state senators from two to four years with staggered
			elections.
•	•	•	 Outreach to the regulated community prior to regulation removal.
•	•		 Reforms of over-reaching and burdensome OSHA (Occupational Safety and Hazard
			Act) and NLRB (National Labor Relations Board) regulations.
	•	•	 A uniform state system of lobbying registration and reporting rather than multiple local systems.
	•	•	Special district compliance with Arizona Open Meeting laws.
	•		 Prospective reforms to state pensions that create solvency within the systems and do not harm taxpayers.
			The Alliance OPPOSES
•	•	•	• Rollovers and sweeps of dedicated funds as a mechanism for balancing the budget.
•	•	•	• Regulatory fee increases that are used as revenue generation and not reflective of
			administrative cost recovery.
		•	• Government regulatory reform that has the potential to slow development or permit
	T	1	processes at the local level.
	•	•	 Efforts to increase localized wage and benefit laws and requirements that are more stringent than state and federal mandates.

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Health Care

The Alliance SUPPORTS

- • •
- An environment that promotes investment in the health care industry's human resources and development of technology to address provider shortages and improve patient outcomes.-
- •
- Access to competitive health care programs that will fix the current problem of rising health care costs, loss of providers, and loss of benefits within plans.
- •
- Reasonable Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) payment rates that cover hospital costs and would minimize hidden/shifted health care costs to employers.
- •
- Encouraging innovative measures, such as purchasing of plans across state lines, plan portable incentives, use of electronic information, and telemedicine technologies which will ensure access, coverage, and result in lower health insurance costs for businesses.
- •
- Patient-centered clarity in the medical billing process that treats all consumers equally.
- • •
- Legislation and efforts to strengthen our behavioral health system, with special attention to vulnerable populations, such as de-stigmatization efforts, improved
- suicide prevention, mental health treatment programs for all populations, and improved partnerships and coordination with the public and private sector.
- •
- Healthcare workforce policies that address the unprecedented industry shortages and build a high-quality health professions pipeline that focuses on training, retention, and recruitment.

The Alliance OPPOSES



• Health insurance coverage mandates.



Immigration

- •
- Congressional legislation and other actions to properly seal our porous borders, respond to the labor needs of the economy in an expeditious manner, and resolve the issues of illegal immigrants already living in the U.S. We support comprehensive immigration policy reform that:
 - ° Strengthens border security by guarding the physical border and better tracking of expired visas.
 - ° Offers a secure, reliable system for employers to verify the legal work eligibility of employees that is a federally based, user-friendly, low-cost, non-discriminatory method to ensure they are complying in good faith with the law.
 - Establishes a market-based immigration process to support a wide range of workforce needs and to respond quickly to the employment demands of U.S. businesses.
 - Oevelops criteria and establishes a guest worker/visa program for illegal immigrants already in the U.S. with no other criminal or arrest record in both the U.S. and their countries of origin, which is based on strictly enforced criteria, including payment of penalties.
 - ° Reimburses states for the costs of incarcerating, educating and providing health care for individuals in the country illegally.

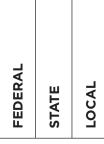


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Land Management

- • •
- A balanced approach to development, recreational use, and preservation of State Trust Land.
- • •
- Appropriate zoning and land use around military installations and airports that advances the mission of those facilities.
- •
- Reasonable reforms to the State Land Department that would modernize its operations and maximize the economic return for the State Trust Land beneficiaries.
- •
- Increased collaboration and coordination between counties, municipalities, utility providers and the State Land Department in local planning and land use decisions and property disposition timetables.





Protecting Employer's Workplace Policies

The Alliance SUPPORTS

• • •	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 employers' rights through ballot
	initiatives.
•	• Preserving a business owner's ability to manage its workplace and workforce without
	expanded federal intrusion, specifically the rules from DOL, EEOC, NLRB and OSHA
	put into place without congressional review.
• • •	 Medical care and administrative reforms that attempt to decrease workers'
	compensation costs.
•	• Reforms that ease or relieve the burden on business of the Proposition 105 (2018)
	paid medical leave requirements.
• • •	 Policies that foster, but not mandate, mentoring and apprenticeship opportunities.
	The Allience Opposes

The Alliance OPPOSES

- changes in qualifications for exempt employees, creation of a joint employer for purposes of collective bargaining, and easing the way for "Ambush Elections."

 Mandating apprenticeship programs in contracts or development agreements.

 Legislation clarifying current prohibitions against prevailing wage mandates.
 - The PRO Act at the Federal level and its detrimental provisions.

Changes to workers' compensation benefits that increase costs to employers.
Excessive and unnecessary government intrusion on the workforce, including

FEDERAL	STATE	LOCAL	Taxes The Alliance SUPPORTS
	•		Passing clear and concise tax law that allows businesses to understand their liability with subjective a reason interpretation.
			without subjective agency interpretation.
	•		 Correcting Department of Revenue online tax submission processes to eliminate arbitrary penalties for businesses.
			Continued efforts to address business concerns regarding the TPT process and
			improve online reporting processes.
	•		Raising the business personal property tax exemption threshold as an economic
			stimulus mechanism for small businesses.
•	•	•	Research and development tax credits to encourage industry innovation and ensure
			a globally competitive position.
	•		Clarity in the statutory definition of "tangible personal property."
•	•	•	The abolishment of specified tax-supported funds if they are not used for the
			intended purpose.
	•		• Expediting consideration of the annual conformity legislation to allow businesses to
			prepare tax returns.
	•		Responsible, well-balanced tax reforms which promotes the long-term fiscal strength
			of the state and places Arizona in a competitive position.
	•		Reducing business property taxes to remain globally competitive.
	•	•	Financing mechanisms to improve Arizona's competitive position for business
			attraction, retention, and expansion.
			The Alliance OPPOSES
•	•	•	Passage of measures that limit flexibility in funding decisions that adversely
			impact the business community.
•	•	•	Business tax increases including the elimination of current business tax

	credits or business tax exemptions.
•	Changes in the formula that would reduce the percentage of state shared
	revenues payable to cities and towns or repayment requirements back to
	the State

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Tort Reform

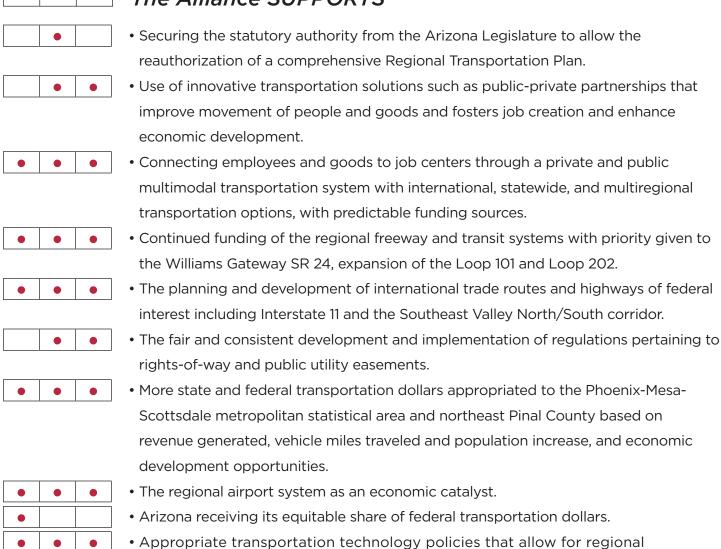
- •
- Continued business liability protections from lawsuits specifically related to public health crises.
- •
- Discouraging nuisance lawsuits.
- •
- Significant tort reform measures including limits on damages to reduce the costs
 of health care and health insurance. Health care related tort reform will encourage
 attraction and retention of a qualified health care workforce.
- •
- Legal reforms that allow for appropriate compensation for substantiated damages and reduce nuisance litigation and costs to Arizona businesses.



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Transportation

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innovation and efficiencies, improvements to the overall system, and safety

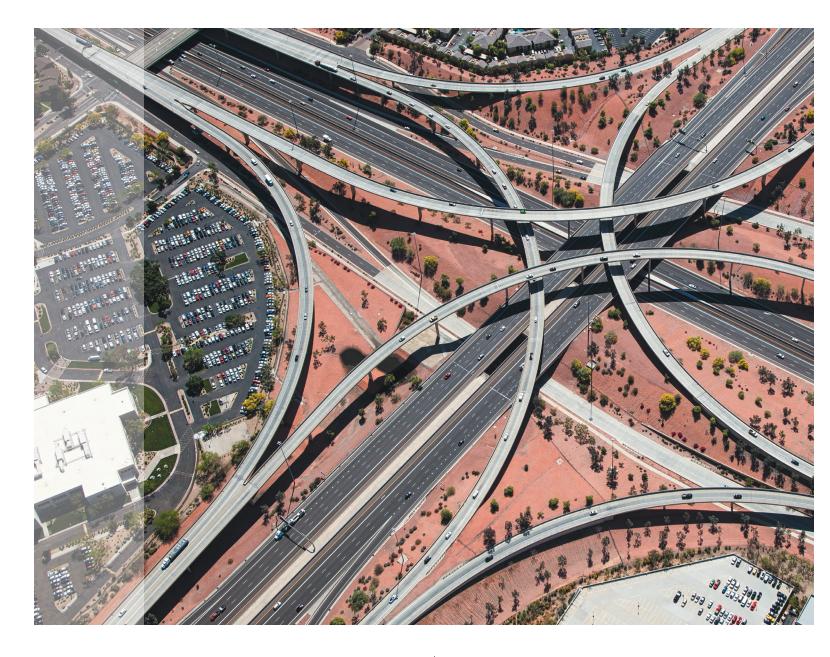
enhancements.

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The Alliance OPPOSES

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- Efforts to reduce funding that will negatively impact airport operations or expansion.
- Any sweep or reappropriation of the Highway User Revenue Fund.
- 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 prioritized and programmed projects, congestion relief,_economic benefits, and air quality compliance.





Who We Are

Representing 5,000 member firms from the Apache Junction, Carefree, Cave Creek, Gilbert, Mesa, Queen Creek, Scottsdale, and Tempe Chambers of Commerce since 1999.

APACHE JUNCTION CHAMBER

(CD 5; LD 7, 10) Mary Ann Przybylski, President/CEO Warde Nichols, ASU

CAREFREE CAVE CREEK CHAMBER

(CD 1; LD 3)

Patty Villeneuve, President/CEO Eric Twohey, Uncorked Media Group

GILBERT CHAMBER

(CD 5; LD 13, 14) Sarah Watts, President/CEO Jan Simon, Foundation Insurance Services

MESA CHAMBER

(CD 5, 4; LD 8, 9, 10, 15) Sally Harrison, President/CEO Blaise Caudill, Southwest Gas John Hetrick, SRP

QUEEN CREEK CHAMBER

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SCOTTSDALE CHAMBER

(CD 1; LD 3, 4, 8) Mark Stanton, President/CEO Matthew Benson, Veridus

TEMPE CHAMBER

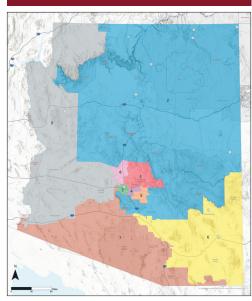
(CD 4; LD 8, 12) Colin Diaz, President/CEO Ashley Bunch, APS Megan Martin, SRP

DORN POLICY GROUP, INC.

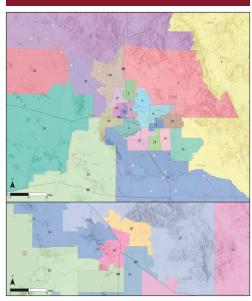
Tom Dorn Eric Emmert Cole Libera Bea Rocklin

Phone: 602-606-4667

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS



LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS



East Valley Voting Districts

Districts in EVCCA Member Regions

APACHE JUNCTION CHAMBER

(CD 5; LD 7, 10)

CAREFREE CAVE CREEK CHAMBER

(CD 1; LD 3)

GILBERT CHAMBER

(CD 5; LD 13, 14)

MESA CHAMBER

(CD 5, 4; LD 8, 9, 10, 15)

QUEEN CREEK CHAMBER

(CD 5; LD 14, 15)

SCOTTSDALE CHAMBER

(CD 1; LD 3, 4, 8)

TEMPE CHAMBER

(CD 4; LD 8, 12)















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