



MARANA CHAMBER LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2011

The Marana Chamber understands the difficult position in which legislators find themselves during these challenging economic times. Due to the enormous budget deficit the State is facing, the Marana Chamber is aware of the sacrifices that must be made. However, we urge legislators to remember Arizona's long-term future and to not debilitate any programs which directly impact our future and our ability to prosper.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The long-term viability of the State and Southern Arizona is dependent upon the successful development of new and existing business and industry. Government should encourage and must foster a climate of growth and development for local business. The Marana Chamber of Commerce supports the following:

- Investments in job training and workforce development.
- Policies resulting in effective management of the State Compensation Insurance Fund of Arizona.
- Legislation that allows for responsible incentives for new businesses and for the expansion of existing businesses, including incentives for hiring new employees and R&D activities.
- Protect military bases in Arizona from encroachment.

The Chamber opposes the elimination of any current tax credits for businesses and also opposes new taxes on business services.

EDUCATION

- The Marana Chamber supports an educational system with high standards and accountability to insure that our students are prepared to meet the demands of our future workforce. The Marana Chamber will advocate for an appropriate funding model necessary to support such a system.
- The Marana Chamber supports funding for competitive compensation for teachers and encourages merit based promotions.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation infrastructure directly impacts economic activity and growth. The Marana Chamber strongly encourages the Arizona Legislature to evaluate Southern Arizona's traffic infrastructure requirements and provide appropriate funding and financing capabilities to address all deficiencies. The Chamber opposes the sweeping of any dedicated transportation funds to be used to balance the state budget.

HEALTH CARE

The Marana Chamber of Commerce strongly believes that health care related issues, the costs associated with the uninsured, rising infrastructure expenses and the threat of mandates on businesses has reached critical proportions in Arizona.

- The Chamber fully supports tort reform that would reduce the negative impact on the overall healthcare system which could lead to lower costs, as well as encourage trained medical professionals to move to Arizona.
- The Chamber believes health care should be provided through a free enterprise system.
- The Chamber strongly opposes any mandates that would require businesses to provide health care to their employees as a condition to do business in Arizona.
- The Marana Chamber supports the State in continuing to subsidize HealthCare Group until other viable insurance programs are available for small businesses.

TAXATION

The Marana Chamber supports equitable tax and fiscal policies that will attract job growth and bring economic success to Southern Arizona. We will advocate on behalf of essential state policies that allow our region's business community to be successful and competitive in the State. The Chamber supports:

- Tax policies that encourage job creation, attract capital investment, and facilitate Arizona's ability to recruit and retain businesses from diverse industries.
- The permanent repeal of the state equalization property tax.
- Tax reforms that are relevant to Arizona's current economic environment.
- Equalization of the property tax assessment ratio.
- Diversity of revenue streams.

IMMIGRATION

First and foremost, secure the border.

- Create a secure system for employers to verify the legal work eligibility of employees. Employers need a user-friendly, low-cost, non-discriminatory method to ensure they are complying with the law.
- Establish a market-based immigration process to support a wide range of workforce needs. Recognize that our varied economy relies on qualified workers with necessary skills.
- Reimburse states for the costs of incarcerating, educating and providing health care for individuals in the country illegally. Take responsibility for the breakdowns in federal immigration policy.
- The Federal Government must come up with a solution to handle the illegal immigrants in the United States.
- Track expired visas and take corrective action.

ENSURE AMPLE AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY SUPPLIES

- Make certain that any system put forward by any level of government to address climate change does not transfer wealth out of Arizona or artificially increase costs for energy producers or consumers.
- Any regional or state rule or regulation should not be more stringent than those at the federal level.
- Remove barriers to and incentivize rather than mandate, the expansion of clean and renewable energy so that Arizona can become a leader in the emerging industry.
- Support the creation of state economic incentives for sustainability initiatives, including LEED Certification, solar, renewable and clean energy