



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

MAJORITY PLAN 2023

A stylized illustration of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a yellow signpost with a rounded rectangular sign stands on a reddish-brown ground. The sign contains the text "A ROADMAP TO A STRONGER ARIZONA". The background features rolling hills in shades of orange and yellow, with several saguaro cacti of varying sizes scattered across the scene. The sky is a light, pale blue.

A ROADMAP TO A
STRONGER ARIZONA



In 2022, Senate Republicans set up Arizona for success by supporting historic and targeted investments in water, border security, public safety, education, infrastructure, transportation, paying down debt, a rainy-day fund and other initiatives to help support the explosive growth our state is experiencing. Moving into 2023, we shift our attention to the crippling inflation that's hurting hardworking families and business owners of our state brought on by reckless policies at the federal level. We must now tighten our belts on excess spending and reduce taxes where we can, so that our citizens can keep more of their own dollars, in an effort to ease the pain of rising costs. With Republicans still in control of the House and Senate, it is imperative that we work together to implement policies consistent with conservative American values of freedom, constitutional rights, democracy, limited government, free markets and opportunity for all citizens so that radical agendas inconsistent with our state will not prevail.



EDUCATION

As Senate Republicans, one of our top priorities is to focus on the academic successes of our students. To do this, we must allocate the historic investments we've made in public education to ensure funding is going directly to classrooms and teachers, not overhead and administration. In 2018, Senate Republicans voted in support of 20% teacher raises by 2020. Most recently in 2022, Senate Republicans also voted in support of historic increases to K-12 education resources, which included \$1 billion in new funding. That same year, Arizona became the first state in the country to pass universal Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) eligibility to all school-age children. This opportunity allows all families to seek out the schools that work best for their children's own individual learning needs so that they can succeed in the classroom. ESAs also encourage healthy competition between schools and districts, as the money follows the child and not the system, which should ultimately entice improvements from under-performing schools. We must be ardent in our efforts to safeguard our most historic school choice expansion and continue to provide our students and parents educational freedom without restrictions. Meanwhile, parents are being left in the dark as schools adopt extreme societal agendas that conflict with personal family values at home. A call to action for transparency in the classroom is imperative to keep families informed so that they can determine the best approach for their children.



BUDGET APPROACH

Arizona's budget has seen significant increases in the past three fiscal years with overall General Fund revenues increasing by \$5.64 billion from fiscal year 2019 to fiscal year 2022. Senate Republicans have allocated these increases to major tax initiatives, like moving Arizona to a single rate of 2.5%, but also to spending increases on roads, public safety, and education. However, as the US economy slows down, Arizona Senate Republicans will advocate to maintain fiscal discipline. We should direct the Legislature away from over-committing available resources, resorting to budget gimmicks, and collecting more than it needs to operate.



APPROPRIATIONS

Senate Republicans must wisely appropriate the unusually large \$2.5 billion in additional one-time (non-recurring) revenue that has flowed into the state's treasury and stay cognizant of the fact that there is no additional ongoing revenue available. Such wise spending will entail putting some money aside to offset expected revenue declines over the subsequent two years due to the high likelihood of a mild recession hitting the United States. It would also be wise to continue catching up on necessary road projects, deferred maintenance tasks and needed IT upgrades. Finally, several sorely needed and small dollar amount ongoing spending projects could be funded for three years with one-time monies, with the understanding that should the economy not recover, those appropriations would be reduced or eliminated three years from now.



FINANCE

Income tax, sales tax, gas tax, property tax, rental tax, food tax – Arizonans pay a lot of taxes to the government! These taxes make the cost of everyday living items – like groceries and housing – more expensive than they otherwise would be. To reduce costs for food and housing, Senate Republicans propose eliminating the residential rental tax and the food tax. We will also consider how we can make the tax system more equitable between business owners and homeowners when it comes to the property taxes they pay.



WATER

Arizona has a long history of being thoughtful and prudent stewards of our water resources. The state has positioned itself to accelerate and invest in statewide water augmentation initiatives, including enhancing efficiency, creating recharge opportunities, increasing reuse and developing new renewable water supplies. As Arizona continues to show leadership and be proactive in our approach to water, it will also strengthen our position on Colorado River Basin negotiations. Deliberations at the newly expanded Water Infrastructure Authority should be transparent and provide ample opportunities for legislative involvement, public feedback and stakeholder engagement. Lawmakers recognize the need for an “all of the above” approach in tackling water supply challenges, relying on a variety of strategies. State law should provide flexibility to water users utilizing new strategies to achieve water management objectives.



ENERGY

Senate Republicans will continue to support energy policies that prioritize reliability and sustainability without compromising affordability. Utilities and consumers should have access to a full portfolio mix of energy generation resources, including nuclear, biomass, geothermal, hydroelectric, natural gas, coal and other petroleum fuel sources, to keep input costs low and bolster continued economic development. Following failures in Texas and California markets, lawmakers will ensure grid stability from both natural causes and cybersecurity threats.



GOVERNMENT

Senate Republicans have been champions of limiting government, reducing bureaucracy, and encouraging effective and meaningful management of our state agencies that serve the people of Arizona. By ensuring that our state agencies are run as efficiently as possible, we can maximize the taxpayer dollar while further shrinking government.



ELECTIONS

Fair and honest elections are at the heart of our democratic republic process. Voting is one of the most sacred actions we take as Americans and Senate Republicans want to give people of Arizona confidence that their ballot is cast safely and securely. Well-organized election systems prioritize accuracy first and foremost, but also value speed. Senate Republicans will support reforms that ensure accuracy of voter rolls, allow for in-person tabulation of early ballots brought to polling places from individuals with ID, expand availability and access to polling locations, and expedite election night results without compromising accuracy, security or transparency. We must work to make our elections transparent, trackable, and publicly verifiable.



JUDICIARY

Arizonans deserve safe communities. Senate Republicans have a demonstrated history of cracking down on crimes that threaten the safety of our residents. As our nation continues to see alarming rates of violent crime, we will continue to implement measures that protect our citizens. Those harming our communities, whether through human trafficking, drug trafficking, or violent crimes, must be held accountable. At the same time, Senate Republicans will also continue to stand up for crime victims and their families. We will continue to support measures that protect these individuals while affording them the utmost consideration and respect. Senate Republicans will continue to advance measures that protect the men and women who work every day to keep our communities safe. We will also work on reducing recidivism rates by helping those who have finished their sentences reintegrate into society with effective rehabilitation programs that provide pathways to work.



HEALTH

Mandates and mitigation measures instituted during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as vaccines and mask use, greatly impacted the daily lives of Arizonans and highlighted the importance of individual medical freedom in our state. Medical decisions are deeply personal decisions that every individual has a right to determine for themselves and that should not be mandated or compelled by the government. Senate Republicans have fought to protect individual rights through a variety of measures that emphasize bodily autonomy, medical freedom, and parental rights by addressing vaccine and other mandates in employment, business and educational settings. We will continue to build upon our momentum of protecting and prioritizing medical freedom in our state and ensure that medical choice remains an individual choice in Arizona.



FENTANYL

In 2018, Senate Republicans successfully launched an aggressive initiative aimed at combatting the opioid epidemic in Arizona. Since then, fentanyl has similarly emerged as a dangerous epidemic that is sweeping the nation and impacting our state. The increasing prevalence of fentanyl distribution and use in our state has not only created a greater need for substance use, mental health and homeless services in our state, it has also resulted in staggering number of overdoses and deaths of Arizona citizens, including our youth. We must make quick and aggressive moves to address the fentanyl crisis in our state to protect the health and safety of Arizonans. We will look to partner with law enforcement and addiction treatment resources in our efforts.



TRANSPORTATION

Economic development and transportation infrastructure are closely connected. While funding transportation is squarely within the scope of government, elected officials have a duty to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars and investments should lead to quantifiable outcomes. Regional funding, including an extension of Prop 400, should focus on infrastructure that connects jurisdictions and has regional significance. Funding should follow actual use patterns in how taxpayers choose to travel; funding should not be used to advance government's agenda on how it wants people to travel. Bidding should be open and competitive.



COMMERCE

Arizona is a business-friendly state. Senate Republicans are strong defenders of free enterprise and its most valuable principals. From free market competition to the opportunity to open a business to private property rights, Arizonans reserve the right and freedom to choose their own economic path to opportunity without government interference. Senate Republicans will look at ways to reduce the red tape and burdensome fees associated with doing business in our state.



HOUSING

Arizona remains in the spotlight as one of the fastest growing states in the nation. People are moving here in droves from highly regulated and heavily taxed states. Unfortunately, the current housing supply is not keeping up with demand and will not be able to sustain our rapid growth. Our seniors are now our fastest growing homeless population due to rising rents and costs of homeownership. Senate Republicans support taking swift action to speed up the project approval process timeline by reducing regulation and zoning barriers and to further increase our housing supply across the state.



HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness and housing availability are two of the top issues facing our state. In order to address these important issues, we will need to work with our cities, towns and counties to create opportunities to further expand and support homeless intervention programs and homeless shelters. We can achieve better outcomes for our homeless populations and protect the public health and safety of our citizens by continuing to establish housing options and homeless intervention programs that provide connectivity to housing, mental health and medical services.