

Majority Plan 2024




Unified For a Better Arizona



**ARIZONA STATE SENATE
REPUBLICAN CAUCUS**



In 2023, Senate Republicans unified in the face of divided government, passing a fiscally conservative and responsible budget historically early in the legislative session, which notably did not increase Arizona's ongoing spending. Despite the Governor's record-setting vetoes, we provided inflation relief for our citizens, funded critical infrastructure projects, protected school choice, and served as a check on executive and federal overreach. Moving into 2024, we'll remain laser-focused on easing the burden of rising costs for our citizens, while continuing to stop dangerous California-style policies from being implemented in the Grand Canyon State. We'll remain unified in protecting freedoms and constitutional rights, advocating for family values and safe communities, promoting free market principles and limited government, and stopping radical ideologies from infiltrating the way of life and opportunities we've established over the past decade for all Arizonans.



BUDGET APPROACH

Last session, Senate Republicans successfully fought to allocate a projected budget surplus prudently on one-time spending priorities, instead of recklessly adopting ongoing spending initiatives. Despite this, Arizona's budget is expected to have a shortfall. We'll resolve the shortfall, without irresponsibly tapping into the Rainy-Day Fund or using budget gimmicks. We'll instead use sound fiscal management strategies, like trimming unnecessary spending and prioritizing government's top functions, in order to close the funding gap.



INFLATION RELIEF

Senate Republicans fundamentally believe you should keep more of your money, instead of growing big government. This notion is even more important as the negligent policies implemented by Joe Biden and his administration continue to contribute to skyrocketing costs, hindering our citizens' ability to make ends meet while threatening their long-term financial security. In 2023, we provided inflation relief through the Arizona Families Tax Rebate, as well as eliminating the tenant-paid rental tax. We'll continue to champion solutions to the inflation crisis by addressing Arizona's gas prices, housing costs, and teacher pay.



LAW ENFORCEMENT & MILITARY

Senate Republicans will continue to advance measures that protect the men and women who work every day to keep our communities safe. As the federal government continues to ignore the crisis at our southern border, we will continue to support the Arizona law enforcement officers who are left to protect our communities amidst a dramatic increase in border related crimes. We will also continue to support our military veterans who have sacrificed so much to serve and protect our country.



EDUCATION

Senate Republicans are committed to protecting parental choice, while providing Arizona kids with a great education and a quality teacher at the front of every classroom. With a track-record of voting for significant increases to K-12 education resources, we've added \$4 billion in state investment since FY 2014, including a 20% teacher pay raise, \$1 billion in new funding for public schools in 2022, and the historic universal expansion of empowerment scholarship accounts. We've found creative solutions to offer alternative teacher certification avenues and will continue to promote commonsense approaches to eliminate barriers to the teaching profession. We must reduce regulations on schools, while maintaining accountability, so that all schools can compete on a level playing field in an effort to improve the academic performance of all Arizona K-12 students. We will continue to advocate for families and teachers, while also continuing to push for transparency in the classroom, so parents can have a more active role in choosing the best learning environments for their kids.



WATER

Arizona is suffering from a devastating lack of housing, which has caused an artificial rise in prices. This lack of supply is preventing many of Arizona's hard-working citizens from purchasing a home. Due the economically detrimental, factually flawed, and haphazardly announced narrative created by the Governor's Office about Arizona's water supply, our state is now in an even more precarious position when it comes to our housing inventory, while out of state investment begins to impact our economy. Senate Republicans will continue to set the record straight on our water situation. Despite the Executive's unwillingness to correct the water model, or utilize existing tools to remedy the consequences of affordable housing, we will champion solutions acknowledging actual water management practices for overall basin health. On rural groundwater, Senate Republicans will introduce an interim option for targeted basins, while refuting false claims of Arizona not having existing tools to manage aquifers. Unlike the work product of the Governor's Water Policy Council, Senate-driven solutions will be grounded in the consent of the governed, the collaborative buy-in of all water users, and the common goal of preserving the health of groundwater basins for future generations.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Senate Republicans will ensure taxpayer dollars dedicated to transportation projects are allocated as efficiently as possible to the modes used most by travelers. We will also champion efforts to streamline operations and improve efficiencies at the Arizona Department of Transportation. In technology infrastructure, we will provide guardrails to protect citizen liberties from threats created by artificial intelligence, as well as explore technological solutions to enhance border security and protect children under state supervision.



HEALTH

A growing population requires a healthcare system prepared to tackle the rising number of patients seeking medical, behavioral, and long-term care services. Maintaining, attracting and augmenting our healthcare workforce through professional training programs and identifying licensing reform opportunities is a top priority for Senate Republicans. Providing our citizens with adequate treatment and prevention programs for substance use disorders, as well as increasing the capacity for psychiatric treatment at our public and private facilities, is pivotal in addressing the homeless crisis plaguing our communities. In addressing the homeless crisis, it is also imperative we ensure services provided to the homeless by community and government entities are collaborative and meaningfully support an individual's ability to obtain housing and achieve long-term success in maintaining housing. Senate Republicans will focus on effective, innovative, and integrative service delivery solutions that ensure positive outcomes, maintain public health and safety, and promote better stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Increased oversight in the care, treatment, and rehabilitation of our most vulnerable populations is also key.



GOVERNMENT

Government is too big. Senate Republicans will stand as an ardent roadblock to any efforts by the Governor, or special interests, to expand the size of government beyond its limited, constitutional function. The conservative principles of reducing bureaucracy, restraining executive authority, preserving individual liberties, and protecting opportunity and prosperity for every Arizonan will guide the Senate's legislative agenda. Rather than new laws adopted, legislative success will best be measured by the burdensome proposals expanding government that Republicans stop from becoming law.



JUDICIARY

Senate Republicans have a demonstrated history of cracking down on crimes threatening the safety of Arizonans. As our nation has seen alarming rates of violent crime, we will continue to implement measures that keep Arizonans safe. Those harming our communities, whether through violent crimes, human trafficking, or drug trafficking, must be held accountable. We must make quick and aggressive moves to address the fentanyl crisis in our state and provide consequences to those responsible for bringing this deadly drug into our communities. 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.



ELECTIONS

Senate Republicans will continue to advance legislation increasing transparency, ensuring safeguards for election integrity, and promoting confidence in the electorate. In spite of the Governor's record vetoes of our election integrity bills, we will continue to put forward commonsense solutions. We will address underlying elections processes and procedures responsible for causing lengthy timelines and delays on the release of election results. Despite cynical, partisan political ploys, we will pursue meaningful policy and process changes, so that Arizona voters have confidence in the security of our elections, and so that our elections will continue to be managed by the people of Arizona without federal interference. We must work to make our elections transparent, trackable, and publicly verifiable.



LITIGATION

Senate Republicans firmly believe in the rule of law and will continue to defend state laws, especially when our Attorney General refuses to do so. We will also continue to seek appropriate relief through the courts to serve as a necessary check on abuses of executive authority at both the state and federal levels.