

## ☆☆INITIATIVE REFORM☆☆

### STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The initiative process was included in the Arizona Constitution as a way for ordinary citizens to have a say in their governments. Today initiatives are more likely to be funded by deep-pocketed organizations and individuals, many from out-of-state. Currently, voter approved initiatives cannot be changed by the Legislature and as a result many unintended consequences have gone uncorrected because they are voter protected.

Legislative priorities:

- Support disclosure of sources funding the initiatives on the petitions.
- Support prohibition of per signature payments of petition circulators.
- Support increasing the number of required signatures.
- Support the formation of a title and summary review board.

## ☆☆TORT REFORM☆☆

### STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

SACCA will advocate for public policy proposals that discourage all frivolous litigation in Arizona.

Legislative priorities:

- Seek proven legislation that would dissuade unnecessary lawsuits through the experiences of other states.
- Seek legislation that would remove incentives to file frivolous lawsuits.

#### Legislative Representation

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## Member Organizations

### Marana Chamber of Commerce

13881 N. Casa Grande Highway – Marana, AZ 85653-9312  
(520) 682-4314 – Fax (520) 682-2303

### Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce

123 W. Kino Park – Nogales, AZ 85621  
(520) 287-3685 – Fax (520) 287-3688

### Northern Pima County Chamber of Commerce

200 W. Magee Road #120 – Tucson, AZ 85704  
(520) 297-2191 – Fax (520) 742-7960

### Greater Sierra Vista Area Chamber of Commerce

21 E. Wilcox Drive – Sierra Vista, AZ 85635  
(520) 458-6940 – Fax (520) 452-0878

### Rio Rico Chamber of Commerce

### Tucson Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 14312 – Tucson, AZ 85732-4312  
(520) 615-6436

### Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

823 E. Speedway Blvd. – Tucson, AZ 85719  
(520) 620-0005 – Fax (520) 620-9685

### Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

465 W. St. Mary's Road – Tucson, AZ 85701  
(520) 792-1212 – Fax (520) 882-5704

## Southern Arizona Delegation

### District 25 (Marana, Nogales, Oro Valley, Rio Rico, Sierra Vista/Cochise County, Tucson)

Senator Marsha Arzberger (D)  
Representative Manuel Alvarez (D)  
Representative Jennifer Burns (R)

### District 26 (Tucson)

Senator Charlene Pesquiera (D)  
Representative Peter Hershberger (R)  
Representative Lena Saradnik (D)

### District 27 (Tucson)

Senator Jorge Luis Garcia (D)  
Representative Oliva Cajero Bedford (D)  
Representative Phil Lopes (D)

### District 28 (Tucson)

Senator Paula Aboud (D)  
Representative David Bradley (D)  
Representative Steve Farley (D)

### District 29 (Tucson)

Senator Victor Soltero (D)  
Representative Linda Lopez (D)  
Representative Tom Prezelski (D)

### District 30 (Oro Valley, Tucson, Sierra Vista)

Senator Tim Bee (R)  
Representative Jonathan Paton (R)  
Representative Marian McClure (R)

# SACCA

Southern Arizona  
Chamber of Commerce  
Alliance



# 2008

# Legislative Agenda



The Southern Arizona Chamber of Commerce Alliance (SACCA) is an organization comprised of eight Chambers representing 4000 members and businesses. As such, SACCA's Legislative Agenda focuses on areas that significantly affect business and industry within Southern Arizona

## ☆☆TAXATION/BUDGET☆☆

### STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Southern Arizona Chamber of Commerce Alliance (SACCA) supports fair tax and fiscal policies that will attract job growth and bring economic success to Southern Arizona. We will advocate on behalf of finding equitable revenues for essential state services while allowing our region's business community to be successful and competitive in a world economy.

Legislative priorities:

- Oppose efforts to revert to state budgeting "gimmicks" that mask an unbalanced budget.
- Support growing the state's budget stabilization fund ("rainy day fund") to the maximum amount allowed by law. Recognizing the state's present budget shortfall and the inclination to tap the rainy day fund in order to help remedy that shortfall, SACCA believes the rainy day fund should only be used to fund existing critical services and provide economic development incentives.
- Support a shared responsibility and fairness in assessing rates for business and residential property tax valuation.
- Support elimination of the business personal property tax or raising the threshold rate to exempt more small businesses.
- Support state investments that benefit the economic future of all employers and employees, such as transportation infrastructure, education (at all levels), economic development and tourism promotion.

## ☆☆EDUCATION, LABOR, WORKFORCE☆☆

### STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

SACCA supports world-class standards of excellence in Arizona's education system. SACCA will advocate for appropriate funding necessary to improve the state's education system from the K-12 and vocational systems through the university levels. Arizona's education system needs to cultivate a work force with the skills and knowledge that emerging and expanding businesses need.

Our region is fortunate to have multiple campuses of the University of Arizona, and every effort must be made to protect investment and expand the scope and ability of the UA and community colleges to create a well-prepared work force.

Legislative priorities:

- Support legislation that would make higher education more accessible.
- Support policy that places emphasis and investment in undergraduate education.
- Support strategic spending proposals for K-12 and higher education in the FY09 budget.
- Oppose any efforts to lower or eliminate AIMS testing standards.
- Implement policies to support college- and work-readiness.
- Increase emphasis on health education programs, particularly UA School of Medicine initiatives.
- Oppose any effort to repeal the "Right to Work" Law.
- Support investment from governmental entities for job training and work force development with priority funding for training and development of the local work force.

## ☆☆IMMIGRATION☆☆

### STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

SACCA seeks a resolution of the border issues and problems affecting Southern Arizona and our neighbors to the south via federal avenues in order to assure the safety and well being of all residents and to protect the economic base of the region.

SACCA supports a workable guest worker program because it is necessary to match our immigration system to our region's economic needs. It is imperative that the U.S. Congress take necessary action to deal with immigration reform without further delay. Without immigration reform, our region's ability to fill future jobs is in serious jeopardy.

Arizona leads the nation in passage of piece-meal legislation...that is often draconian...because of Congress' failure to act on immigration reform. The ultimate solution lies at the federal level right at the feet of the US Congress.

Legislative priorities:

- Oppose any legislation that punishes good faith efforts by employers who hire undocumented workers.
- Support policies to ensure that residents of Mexico are not denied the legal opportunity to conduct business and visit family members in Arizona.
- Oppose any unfunded mandates surrounding the issue of local enforcement of federal immigration law.
- Support federal efforts to track foreign visitors in our country in order to determine that the laws of the U.S. regarding foreign travel are being enforced.
- Support full reimbursement of local expenses and costs that have an impact on law enforcement, education and health care.
- Oppose any legislation that creates undue hardships on employers for verifying worker eligibility or results in employers being mandated to identify illegal workers.
- Memorialize Congress to create a dependable, foolproof identification system to verify worker eligibility.

## ☆☆ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES☆☆

### STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

SACCA supports the concept that government entities should prepare economic impact assessments prior to enacting environmental regulations and ordinances imposed on the private sector.

Water is a precious resource that must not be wasted or lost, and SACCA will continue to stress the need for water conservation as well as the need to participate in and encourage discussion of water use policies that use our existing water resources wisely and efficiently.

SACCA encourages state, county and local governments to seek new water resources and supports legislation that would enable counties to enact ordinances against water waste, and urges assistance wherever possible to enable communities to balance their growth and water needs.

SACCA believes efforts should be made by governmental entities to streamline the environmental permitting process with a faster application review. The lengthy environmental permitting process hinders business operations and suppresses business growth.

## ☆☆ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT☆☆

### STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The long-term viability of the state and the Southern Arizona region is dependent upon the successful development of new and existing business and industry. The most beneficial and sustainable economic development results from a competitive business climate. Government should encourage and foster a climate of growth and development for local business.

Legislative priorities:

- Support the military presence in our region (Davis-Monthan AFB, Fort Huachuca), their functions and economic impact, as well as present and future missions, and oppose any effort to close or reduce operations.
- Support efforts to expand economic growth, while promoting good stewardship of our land and resources.
- Support the revamping of the Arizona Department of Commerce to move us into the global arena, as well as keeping state economic development advancing for all parts of the state.
- SACCA urges the Committee appointed to study housing affordability to initiate that study as soon as possible. The effects of fees and mandates should be included in the purview of that study.
- Arizona's workers compensation system is one of the most efficient programs in the United States. SACCA will support workers compensation policies that continue effective management of the State Compensation Fund of Arizona. SACCA recognizes that we must be able to compete with surrounding states in the area of workers compensation law and will advocate to keep Arizona competitive in this critical issue.
- SACCA will support a thorough review of Arizona's workers compensation laws, including the impact on workers compensation employer premiums. SACCA will also support comprehensive reforms that ensure fairness for employers and employees.

## ☆☆HEALTHCARE☆☆

### STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Healthcare insurance is one of the most valued employee benefits and the most costly to provide for any employer large or small. The State should encourage, rather than mandate, expansion of affordable healthcare benefits.

Legislative priorities:

- Oppose legislation that would require mandatory employer provided healthcare benefits.
- Support amending the Healthcare Group Charter to eliminate the required six month "go bare." Arizona must continue to support an insurer of last resort such as our state supported Healthcare Group.
- The State could take legislative action that would encourage larger risk groups to be formed, perhaps under the umbrella of trade associations.