

Marana Chamber Legislative Position

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 foster a climate of growth and development for local business.

- The Marana Chamber supports investments in job training and work force development.
- The Chamber supports efforts to increase income levels while decreasing housing costs to close the gap between the two.
- The Marana Chamber will support workers compensation policies that continue effective management of the State Compensation Insurance Fund of Arizona.
- Supports Legislation that allows for responsible incentives for new business relocation and growth opportunities.

TRANSPORTATION

Knowing transportation infrastructure directly impacts economic vitality and growth, the Marana Chamber strongly encourages and supports our Arizona Legislature in not only evaluating Southern Arizona's traffic infrastructure needs, but also providing appropriate funding and financing capabilities to address any and all deficiencies.

IMMIGRATION

The Marana Chamber of Commerce supports the federal government in resolving the nation's immigration crisis. The Chamber does not believe this burden should be placed on the State Legislature as this is a national issue.

- Arizona must protect the ability to hire legal immigrants because these workers perform a multitude of jobs to support a successful economy, and a guest worker program is essential for Arizona.
- Employee sanctions must be fair and just to protect law-abiding employers and legal migrant workers so that there is no negative impact on the economy.

HEALTH CARE

The Marana Chamber of Commerce believes health care issues- the high number of uninsured and underinsured, soaring costs, health care worker shortages and increasing mandates on business- are reaching critical proportions in Arizona.

- The Chamber believes health care should be provided through a free enterprise system.
- The Chamber believes there is a need for safeguards such as licensing, qualifications standards and consumer protection by the Arizona Department of Insurance.
- Business owners should never be mandated to provide health care as a condition of doing business in the state of Arizona. We must continue to have the right to voluntarily provide benefits, including health care, to our employees as an incentive to retain the very best workers.
- Affordability is a common concern to all employers from the self-employed to the major corporations. Costs are directly related to excessive lawsuits. For that reason, the Chamber supports tort reform in order to control medical malpractice insurance rates and the shortage of trained medical professionals.
- 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 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 policies while allowing our region's business community to be successful and competitive in the State. The Chamber supports:

- the State's efforts towards maximizing the stabilization fund
- eliminating the business property tax rate,
- raising the threshold rate to exempt more small businesses from excessive taxes.

EDUCATION

The Marana Chamber supports world-class standards of excellence in Arizona's education system. As such, the Chamber will advocate for appropriate funding necessary to improve the state's education system from the K-12 and vocational systems through the university levels.

Additionally, the Chamber encourages the State to make higher education more accessible while creating policies to support college and work readiness.

The Marana Chamber supports creative financing to improve the states overall education system.