



Founded in 1987

**BUILDING  
BUSINESS & COMMUNITY  
RELATIONSHIPS™**



## **MARANA CHAMBER LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2012**

The Marana Chamber understands the difficult position in which legislators find themselves during these challenging economic times. Due to the current financial environment and the continued long term structural challenges the State is facing, the Marana Chamber is aware of the sacrifices that must be made as the Chamber and our members have also had to undertake. However, we urge legislators to prioritize 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:

- Continue to protect investments in job training and workforce development.
- Support the Arizona Commerce Authority in adopting a long-term business development plan focusing on economically sustainable, high-wage growth industries.
- 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.
- Continue to support opportunities for technical education needed for a competitive workforce.
- 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, unless to fully support and operate related transportation agencies.

## **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 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.
- 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.

## **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.
- The Marana Chamber supports raising the business personal property tax exemption threshold as an economic stimulus mechanism for small business
- The Marana Chamber supports the exploration of a transaction privilege/sales tax on out-of-state internet sales

## **NATURAL RESOURCE UTILIZATION AND MANGEMENT**

- Support the responsible, yet necessary, utilization of the natural resources of the State through the efficient harvesting, extracting or other appropriate means of acquisition.
- 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