

## VISION

Advancing a world-class community

## MISSION

To improve greater Tucson and the state of Arizona by bringing together resources and leadership to enhance the economic climate and quality of life in our communities

**CORE VALUES** | Collaboration | Fact based | Impactful | Leadership | Trustworthy

## FOCUS AREAS

### EDUCATION



Advance a P-20 education system that supports student matriculation to the highest possible levels and meets the region's workforce needs. Minority attainment and racial/social educational equity are critical to Arizona's prosperity.

### INFRASTRUCTURE



Promote efficient, effective water, energy, and communications infrastructure. Support an integrated transportation system of air, rail, and ground as well as critical infrastructure funding solutions for the region.

### INNOVATION



Foster and support a robust entrepreneurial culture and access to capital that sustains and grows the Innovation Economy of our region and state.

### GOVERNANCE



Cultivate efficient and effective governance. Address deficiencies at local, regional and state levels; promote civic engagement.

### HEALTHCARE



Champion a sustainable, high-quality healthcare system that benefits patients and workforce and serves as a major economic driver for the region and state.

# 2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA and POLICY GOALS

## Lead Policy and Advocacy Priorities



Advocate for a 10-year renewal of Prop. 123 which provides schools with more than \$250 million annually from the State Land Trust.



Advocate for a permanent solution (constitutional change) to the Aggregate Expenditure Limitation issue so Arizona's schools can receive the monies budgeted for them.



Participate in multiple levels of effort to win voter approval for reauthorization of the Regional Transportation Authority plan and sales tax (RTA Next).



Facilitate a platform within the regional innovation community to foster impactful business connections between founders, mentors, investors, and business leaders to strengthen entrepreneurial activity in Southern Arizona.



Identify and recruit candidates committed to amending the City of Tucson Charter to establish open non partisan primary elections and/or ward-only general elections.



Champion legislation that would expand Graduate Medical Education (especially in rural areas) and legislation/programs that help recruit and retain the physician and healthcare workforce.

### EDUCATION

- Actively participate in the PEEPS program to support expanded access to Early Childhood Education (ECE) in Pima County for low- and moderate-income children.
- Support legislation to enhance funding for ECE, including taxing e-cigarettes under Arizona's tobacco luxury tax.
- Partner with Tucson Values Teachers to help recognize and retain high quality teachers.
- Engage with *Education Forward Arizona* to support education policy and programs across the P-20 continuum.
- Partner with Pima JTED to amplify opportunities that align with students' career interests and can help ameliorate workforce shortages in key sectors.
- Advocate for full funding for K-12 public education.
- Advocate for increased funding for community colleges and Arizona's universities.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

- Lead effort of business community to get inclusion in the State General Fund appropriation to support ongoing I-10 expansion projects, Kino Parkway Interchange and State Route 210 extensions.
- Remain with ADOT and PAG on:
  - Tier 2 EIS on the Sonoran Corridor to qualify for available federal funding and explore non-traditional funding opportunities for the corridor.
  - Development of I-11 proposal along the Southern Arizona route options connecting the US-Mexico border to the Intermountain West Corridor.
  - Phoenix-Tucson Intercity Passenger Rail development efforts
- Engage at the local, state, and federal level to address the digital divide and increase broadband access.
- Support power providers in resilient grid modernization and the transition to low GHG emission production.
- Engage in regional water policy efforts to ensure a sufficient water supply for sustained economic growth.

### INNOVATION

- Support the U of A's focus on research that drives innovation to include AI, data systems, and tech transfer (e.g. Tech Launch Arizona). Promote opportunities to engage in space technology development and marketing.
- Promote opportunities to engage with Advanced Mobility innovators, manufacturers, and business stakeholders.
- Support efforts to:
  - Grow the availability of risk capital in Arizona.
  - Support local and state legislation, policies and incentives that offer a high ROI while enhancing the growth of the innovation economy.
  - Support reforms that streamline government processes to improve business attraction, expansion, and job creation.
  - Support workforce pipeline platforms that serve students, job seekers and employers across multiple industries.
- Engage as needed to protect the Technology & Research Innovation Fund (TRIF)

### GOVERNANCE

- Expand efforts to identify and cultivate local/statewide candidates
- Lead an effort to promote more regional collaboration, especially transportation and courts
- Organize and lead engagement opportunities between SALC members and local and state elected officials and administrators
- Support legislation, policies, and initiatives that protect and modernize the citizens' initiative process
- Support efforts that seek to improve local and state election processes
- Collaborate to support system-level reforms for fair and effective local and state governments such as:
  - Reform of the current primary election system
  - Ward-only elections in the City of Tucson
  - Amend the Voter Protection Act and the Supermajority requirement (in tandem)

### HEALTHCARE

- Support legislation, policies and initiatives that increase or further:
  - Access to mental health care/resources
  - Prevention and treatment of substance abuse including opioid and meth addiction
  - Stability and affordability of healthcare for individuals and employers, including Kids Care, AHCCCS, and prospective pharmaceutical pricing limitations
  - Creation of a database of adult flu and COVID-19 vaccines
  - Healthcare worker staffing through policies that include non-cumbersome financial support and pipeline development
  - The 340B Protection bill
- Support efforts to curb expansion of healthcare unionization
- Support efforts to improve the Health Information Exchange