

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



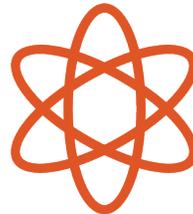
Advance a P-20 education system that supports student matriculation to the highest possible levels and meets the region's workforce needs. Minority attainment and racial/social educational equity are critical to Arizona's prosperity.

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.

2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA & POLICY GOALS

Lead Policy and Advocacy Priorities



Southern Arizona Leadership Council

EDUCATION	INFRASTRUCTURE	INNOVATION	GOVERNANCE	HEALTHCARE
 <p>Advocate for a 10-year renewal of Prop. 123 to sustain K–12 funding and support stable, long-term funding for First Things First to strengthen early childhood education statewide.</p>	 <p>Lead the business community's effort to secure voter approval for RTA Next. Support responsible development of data centers, AI, and supporting infrastructure.</p>	 <p>Foster impactful business connections between founders, mentors, investors, and business leaders to strengthen entrepreneurial activity in Southern Arizona.</p>	 <p>Strengthen Arizona's leadership pipeline by supporting qualified candidates and accountable governance, while leading recruitment for judicial nominating commissions and advocating timely Senate confirmations.</p>	 <p>Oppose ballot measures that undermine hospitals' ability to attract and retain leadership talent. Advocate for sustained investment in healthcare workforce development, recruitment, and retention.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively participate in the PEEPS program to support expanded access in Pima County. • Support expanded funding streams for Early Childhood Education, to include adding e-cigarettes to the existing Arizona tobacco luxury tax. • Partner with Tucson Values Teachers to recognize and attract high quality teachers for Southern Arizona. • Engage emerging leaders through the Civic & Political Leadership Academy. • Engage with Southern Arizona's education leaders, including Southern Arizona Superintendents' Consortium. • Support Pima Community College's efforts to bolster workforce development. • Prioritize SALC's efforts to capitalize on policy and programmatic opportunities that arise along the P-20 continuum. • Amplify Pima JTED opportunities that help ameliorate workforce shortages in key sectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion sustainable statewide funding for all transportation modes. • Advance priority projects, including the Sonoran Corridor (Tier 2 EIS), I-10, I-11, intercity passenger rail, and cross-border trade infrastructure. • Ensure effective use of federal infrastructure funds (IIJA, ARPA). • Convene and lead key coalitions, including Business Partners for Trade and Transportation and the Tucson Regional Water Coalition. • Advocate for resilient, modern infrastructure across transportation, water, energy, aviation, broadband, and the electric grid. • Protect dedicated infrastructure funds (Highway User Revenue Fund, State Aviation Fund) and modernize revenue sources. • Monitor and engage in federal Surface Transportation Act reauthorization to elevate Southern Arizona priorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support University of Arizona research and tech transfer, with emphasis on AI, data systems, and imaging. • Promote opportunities to engage with Advanced Mobility innovators, manufacturers, and stakeholders. • Support policies that expand availability of risk capital and deliver high ROI for Arizona's innovation economy. • Support efforts to streamline governmental administrative processes to improve business attraction and job creation. • Support workforce pipeline platforms that serve students, job seekers, and employers across multiple industries. • Protect the Technology & Research Innovation Fund (TRIF) for universities. • Collaborate with key partners, including MAP Dashboard, Arizona Bioscience Roadmap, Startup Tucson, TenWest Festival, and the Tucson Innovation Partnership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote effective regional collaboration, particularly on transportation infrastructure and the courts. • Convene SALC members with local and state officials to address policy impacts on Southern Arizona's businesses and communities. • Build civic and policy awareness among emerging leaders through SALC Associate Memberships and support of the Civic & Political Leadership Academy. • Support modernization of the citizens' initiative process and improvements to local and state election administration. • Advance system-level reforms to strengthen fair, effective, and accountable governance, including primary election reform, ward-only elections in Tucson, term limits, redistricting reform, and updates to the Voter Protection Act and supermajority requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep SALC members informed on healthcare trends and policy impacts. • Support policies that expand workforce pipelines, protect 340B, improve access to mental health and substance-use treatment, and enhance affordability and coverage (KidsCare, AHCCCS). • Advocate for policies that reduce administrative burden, protect continuity of care, and improve data sharing, including Health Information Exchange and targeted regulatory reforms. • Support responsible approaches to healthcare labor policy. • Advance digital health and precision medicine in partnership with regional stakeholders. • Use tools like the MAP Dashboard to drive measurable improvements in population health.