

2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

State budgets and taxes represent our shared priorities and values. The Arizona Center for Economic Progress (AZCenter) advocates for a state budget and tax structure that builds stronger economic opportunities for all Arizonans, treats individuals and families equitably, and protects revenue for vital public services. The AZCenter supports the following 2024 legislative agenda to advance these goals.



STATE BUDGET AND TAX

Taxes play a pivotal role in fostering a just and prosperous economy, providing the necessary resources for investments in education, infrastructure, health care, early childhood development and other vital services that benefit all individuals and families. Regrettably, Arizonans with the lowest incomes have paid the greatest share of their income in taxes for years. Meanwhile, the state's budget faces risks from excessive tax breaks for those with the highest incomes.

The AZCenter will work to:

- **Oppose efforts to reduce state revenues** through tax cuts.
- **Oppose efforts to enact automatic triggers** that would result in once-size-fits-all reduction of tax rates or spending limitations for essential public services.



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Access to nutritious food, stable housing, quality health and child care, and other household necessities should not be out of reach to Arizonans with lower incomes or experiencing economic hardship. Facing rising costs, far too many Arizonans are struggling to meet their basic needs without sacrificing their well-being. This dilemma often forces Arizona families to make agonizing decisions, such as choosing between caring for a newborn or a sick relative and returning to work because they cannot afford to miss a single paycheck.

The AZCenter will work to:

- **Enact a statewide paid family and medical leave program.**
- **Strengthen safety net programs that can support individuals and families in times of crisis,** including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance and unemployment insurance.
- **Support partner efforts to promote housing-first policies,** increase affordable housing, and strengthen tenant protections.



Arizonans strongly agree that well-resourced educational opportunities are a top priority. Yet for years, Arizona's public schools have been starved of needed investments and will now likely face budget cuts. The state continues to suffer from a shortage of qualified teachers, backlogs for school repairs, and unnecessary financial barriers.

The AZCenter will work to:

- Support partner efforts to **support public education** by referring a permanent elimination of the public-school Aggregate Expenditure Limit to voters.
- Support partner efforts to address the **Universal Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) Program** to increase integrity and accountability of fund expenditures, reduce the program's cost to the state, and prevent public tax dollars from being diverted from public schools to private schools.

