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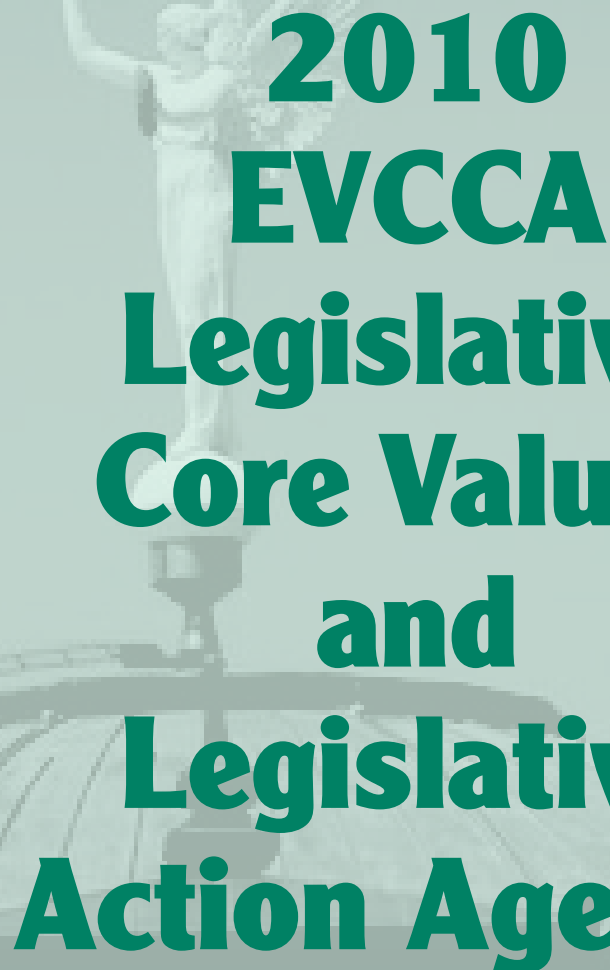
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EAST VALLEY CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ALLIANCE

# EVCCA

The Voice of East Valley Business  
Ahwatukee Foothills    Apache Junction    Chandler    Gilbert  
Mesa    Queen Creek    Scottsdale    Tempe



## 2010 EVCCA Legislative Core Values and Legislative Action Agenda

Representing more than 7,500 member firms from the  
Ahwatukee Foothills, Apache Junction, Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa,  
Queen Creek, Scottsdale and Tempe Chambers of Commerce.

Its purpose is to provide coordination and to advance  
the common business interests in the East Valley.

[www.evcca.org](http://www.evcca.org)

# Policy Statements *(in alphabetical order)*

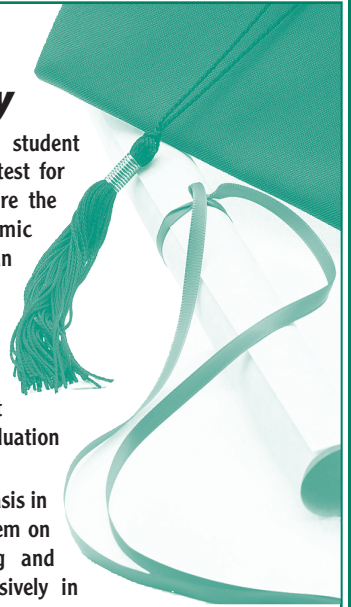
## **Access to Healthcare**

- The Alliance urges significant tort reform measures including limits on damages to reduce the costs of healthcare and health insurance. Healthcare-related tort reform will encourage attraction and retention of a qualified healthcare workforce.
- The Alliance encourages innovative measures to assist small businesses in providing private healthcare coverage for employees. Legislative emphasis should be placed on healthcare cost transparency, access, portability for the insured and reasonable costs.
- The Alliance opposes requiring employers to purchase healthcare insurance for all employees. The Alliance also opposes additional health insurance benefit mandates.
- The Alliance supports a responsibly managed healthcare high-risk pool.
- The Alliance supports reasonable AHCCCS payment rates that cover hospital costs and would minimize hidden healthcare costs on employers.



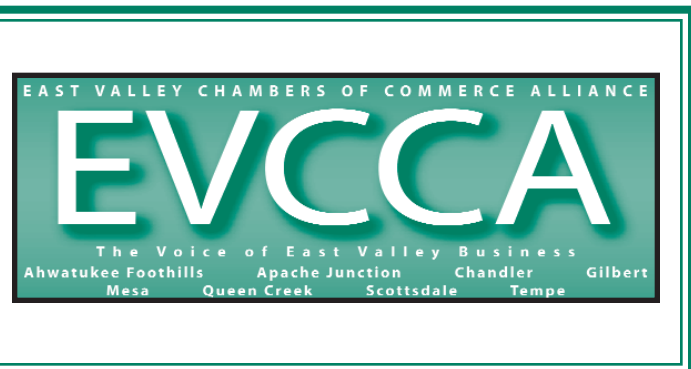
## **Education for a Strong Economy**

- The Alliance supports requiring student passage of a state standardized test for high school graduation to measure the competency of students' academic and workplace skills to ensure an educated workforce.
- The Alliance supports improving and aligning the K-20 education system. Increased funding should be linked to improved student retention, performance and graduation rates.
- The Alliance urges a greater emphasis in the Arizona public education system on science, technology, engineering and mathematics to compete aggressively in the global economy.
- The Alliance urges greater emphasis on civics education and business education to prepare students for politically-informed citizenship and understanding of business issues.
- The Alliance supports strategic investments in Arizona State University, community colleges and other public universities.
- The Alliance supports equitable per-pupil funding of Arizona's state universities.
- The Alliance supports reasonable reforms pertaining to desegregation funding that will ensure accountability and appropriate use of these dollars.
- The Alliance encourages the Legislature to develop a balanced and equitable statewide formula to fund capital construction and building renewal other than the current Students First method. In determining the funding formula, the Alliance encourages the State to use projected growth rather than historical data.
- The Alliance urges innovative methods to increase access of technology to advance education delivery at all grade levels including universities and community colleges.
- The Alliance opposes use of education rollovers to balance the State budget.



## **Economic Vitality and Expansion**

- The Alliance supports the core functions of the Arizona Office of Tourism and Arizona Department of Commerce in order to foster tourism and economic development within Arizona.
- The Alliance recognizes the regional airport system as an economic catalyst. The Alliance opposes efforts to reduce funding, particularly when the receipt of federal funds is jeopardized, that will negatively impact operations or expansion and strongly supports legislation to advance the missions of these facilities.
- The Alliance supports continued emphasis on the importance of job training and workforce development and replenishing depleted job training funds as quickly as possible. Funding for training and development of Arizona's workforce should receive priority, including vocational training and skilled worker programs customized to the needs of Arizona's employers. Job training funds should be made more easily accessible to small businesses.
- The Alliance urges an immediate moratorium on the collection of the State Job Training Fund taxes until such time that the funds are used for the intended purpose.
- The Alliance supports appropriate action to ensure an adequate supply, necessary infrastructure and transmission of gasoline, electricity, natural gas, water and other critical resources for the State at all times, without placing any disproportionate burden on business.
- The Alliance supports aggressive development of science, technology and engineering within Arizona through incentives for public and private investment in research and development.
- The Alliance supports the creation and implementation of a competitive statewide economic development strategy for business development, attraction and expansion in Arizona.



## ***Efficient and Effective Government***

- The Alliance supports a legislative review and modernization of budgetary formulas, including those for AHCCCS and education.
- The Alliance supports a referendum suspending automatic spending increases for voter protected funds in a fiscal year when revenues do not meet projections.
- The Alliance supports efforts to increase requirements for ballot initiatives including but not limited to: advancing filing dates; permitting legislative changes to initiatives with voter ratification; increasing the number of required signatures; creating penalties for deceptive solicitation; clearly communicating the implications of Arizona's Voter Protection Act; establishing county requirements for signature collection similar to that of statewide offices; requiring legislative council to review and title initiatives prior to signature collection; and requiring those who sign a petition to complete the entire line.
- The Alliance urges the Legislature to refer to the voters the question of amending legislative terms of office. The Alliance supports increasing the terms for state senators from two to four years with staggered elections and increasing term limits for both chambers from eight to twelve years. These changes would provide continuity in the State legislative process.
- To reduce costs associated with frivolous legislation, the Alliance supports cosponsorship requirements for legislative introduction such that each bill should have no fewer than five.
- The Alliance supports establishing a government privatization and efficiency review entity to determine which state services may be best delivered by the private sector.
- The Alliance supports moving Arizona's congressional, statewide, legislative and county primary elections to May.
- The Alliance supports greater transparency and efforts to streamline operations within Arizona government including but not limited to an annual report by the State Treasurer to the Arizona Legislature.
- The Alliance supports placing statutorily required public notices online.

## ***Fair Taxation for Economic Growth***

- The Alliance is opposed to taxing business-to-business transactions and business tax increases including the elimination of current business tax credits or business tax exemptions.
- The Alliance strongly urges the permanent repeal of the State equalization property tax.
- The Alliance urges the Legislature to address property tax inequities including implementing a prospective uniform secondary property tax assessment ratio in order to remain nationally competitive.
- As an economic stimulus mechanism for small businesses, the Alliance advocates raising the business personal property tax exemption threshold.
- The Alliance supports expanding an accelerated asset depreciation schedule for businesses.
- The Alliance supports expansion of the current research and development tax credit to encourage industry innovation and ensure a globally competitive position.
- When beneficial to Arizona businesses, the Alliance urges the Legislature to conform Arizona statutes with all federal depreciation rules as they pertain to businesses' capital expenditures and investments. Additionally, the Alliance asks the Legislature to expedite consideration of the annual conformity legislation to allow businesses to prepare tax returns knowing Arizona has conformed to federal law.
- The Alliance urges the Legislature to consider responsible well-balanced tax reform. Any legislative amendments or referendums regarding taxation should address the structural deficit and promote a strong, viable business climate in Arizona.

## ***Energy and the Environment***

- The Alliance is concerned about the overall impact of air pollution on our region from a health, economic and aesthetic standpoint. Any air quality legislation should provide businesses and citizens with incentives and practical, multiple options and should not exceed federal requirements.
- The Alliance continues to support efforts, such as the Arizona Water Banking Authority, that will help enable Arizona to fully utilize its entire Colorado River entitlement. Full utilization of Arizona's entitlement will help to protect the State's Colorado River supply.
- The Alliance supports a realistic and balanced approach to addressing Endangered Species Act requirements without negatively impacting the region's ability to develop economically.
- The Alliance continues to support the fundamental concepts of the 1980 Groundwater Management Act. The Alliance also supports statewide development of long-term sustainable water supplies, coordination between active management areas, encouragement of direct groundwater recharge projects and promotion of water conservation.
- The Alliance supports a cost-effective energy policy that keeps Arizona's businesses competitive.
- The Alliance is opposed to Arizona's participation in the Western Climate Initiative. Any greenhouse gas emission regulations should be addressed at the federal level.
- The Alliance urges that any energy efficiency legislation should provide incentives and practical, multiple options for business.
- The Alliance urges the creation of state economic incentives for "green initiatives" including LEED Certification, solar, renewable and clean energy.



- The Alliance opposes any changes in the formula that would reduce the percentage of state shared revenues payable to cities and towns and opposes repayment requirements back to the State.
- The Legislature should honor the integrity of, and restore revenues to designated funds that were used over previous budget cycles to mask the shortfall in state revenue. The credibility of the budget process must be restored by returning these dollars to their intended purposes.
- The Alliance urges regularly scheduled reviews of funds with dedicated revenue sources. If tax-supported funds are not being used for the intended purpose during regularly scheduled reviews, the tax and fund should be abolished.
- The Alliance is opposed to passage of a Taxpayers' Bill of Rights (TABOR). It is important for Arizona to have flexibility in funding decisions to provide services to our growing population.

## Land Management for Economic Prosperity

- The Alliance recognizes the importance of the Sonoran Desert as a finite resource and its quality-of-life value. The Alliance encourages a balanced approach to development, recreational use and preservation of State Trust land.
- The Alliance supports reasonable reforms to the State Land Department that would modernize its operations and maximize the economic return of State Trust lands for the trust beneficiaries.
- The Alliance supports planning of State Trust lands that will more thoroughly evaluate the impacts of such planning decisions on businesses and communities.
- The Alliance supports continued implementation of the Growing Smarter Act with a balanced emphasis on local control of planning, orderly growth and open space preservation.
- The Alliance supports policies by which counties abide by town/city general plans when reviewing and approving proposed developments as intended by the Growing Smarter Act.
- The Alliance supports local control of land-use decisions and opposes expansion of the "Private Property Rights Protection Act" because of the potential for abuse and negative financial impacts.



## Workforce Management

- The Alliance supports guaranteeing employees the right to vote by secret ballot in labor union organization decisions.
- The Alliance asks the Legislature to urge Congress to establish a program providing an adequate legal workforce while maintaining the integrity of our national borders and providing protection of the rights and benefits of legal citizens. Businesses that unknowingly hire illegal immigrants while following all applicable state and federal laws should not be sanctioned.
- The Alliance supports an Arizona state guest worker program.
- The Alliance supports attempts to decrease workers' compensation costs through medical care and administrative reforms.
- The Alliance opposes any legislation that would divert the SCF Arizona assets.



## Transportation Infrastructure

- The Alliance urges use of innovative transportation solutions that maximize multi-modal connectivity, such as public-private partnerships and commuter rail, to improve movement of people and goods in the East Valley and Pinal County.
- The Alliance is opposed to any shifting or repealing of funds currently designated for the development and maintenance of the East Valley regional freeway system. Any efforts to further expedite transportation project construction should be based on programmed projects, immediate congestion relief, air quality compliance and should be multi-modal in nature.
- The Alliance supports immediate construction of the Williams Gateway Freeway.
- More state and federal transportation dollars should be appropriated to the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale metropolitan statistical area and northeast Pinal County based on revenue generated, vehicles miles traveled and population.
- The Alliance supports measures by the Legislature to encourage our congressional delegation to fight for Arizona's fair share of federal transportation dollars during the debate on the reauthorization of the federal surface transportation program.



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# 2010 EVCCA Legislative Priorities

## **Equalization Property Tax**

The Alliance strongly urges the permanent repeal of the State equalization property tax.

## **Fund Restoration**

The Legislature should honor the integrity of, and restore revenues to, designated funds that were used over previous budget cycles to mask the shortfall in state revenue. The credibility of the budget process must be restored by returning these dollars to their intended purposes.

## **Fund Reviews**

The Alliance urges regularly scheduled reviews of funds with dedicated revenue sources. If tax-supported funds are not being used for the intended purpose during regularly scheduled reviews, the tax and fund should be abolished.

## **Health Insurance**

The Alliance encourages innovative measures to assist small businesses in providing private healthcare coverage for employees. Legislative emphasis should be placed on healthcare cost transparency, access, portability for the insured and reasonable costs.

## **Initiative Reform**

The Alliance supports efforts to increase requirements for ballot initiatives including but not limited to: advancing filing dates; permitting legislative changes to initiatives with voter ratification; increasing the number of required signatures; creating penalties for deceptive solicitation; clearly communicating the implications of Arizona's Voter Protection Act; establishing county requirements for signature collection similar to that of statewide offices; requiring

legislative council to review and title initiatives prior to signature collection; and requiring those who sign a petition to complete the entire line.

## **Job Training Fund**

The Alliance urges an immediate moratorium on the collection of the State Job Training Fund taxes until such time that the funds are used for the intended purpose.

## **Privatization**

The Alliance supports establishing a government privatization and efficiency review entity to determine which state services may be best delivered by the private sector.

## **Property Tax Relief**

The Alliance urges the Legislature to address property tax inequities including implementing a prospective uniform secondary property tax assessment ratio in order to remain nationally competitive.

## **Secret Ballot**

The Alliance supports guaranteeing employees the right to vote by secret ballot in labor union organization decisions.

## **Tort Reform**

The Alliance supports reform of the current litigation system including tort reform and greater use of alternative dispute resolution to reduce costs to business.

## **Western Climate Initiative**

The Alliance is opposed to Arizona's participation in the Western Climate Initiative. Any greenhouse gas emission regulations should be addressed at the federal level.

# EVCCA Core Values

These guiding principles are the filter through which all legislation is evaluated. The Alliance firmly believes that these core values are the cornerstone to a sound and productive business community. (See [www.evcca.org](http://www.evcca.org) for more information.)

- The Alliance supports that all state legislation, policy adoption and appropriations be accomplished by elected legislators, not at the ballot box, nor through executive orders or multistate regional coalitions.
- The Alliance supports responsible tax policy without placing an undue burden on business.
- The Alliance opposes state energy and environmental statutes and regulations that exceed federal requirements.
- The Alliance supports reform of the current litigation system including tort reform and greater use of alternative dispute resolution to reduce costs to business.
- The Alliance supports adequate funding to promote tourism and economic development.
- The Alliance supports all land uses and zoning around military installations and airports in Arizona that advance the mission of those facilities.
- The Alliance supports a multimodal transportation system designed to connect employees and goods to job centers.
- The Alliance supports a well-educated highly skilled workforce through a quality education system.
- The Alliance supports maintaining Arizona's status as a "right-to-work" state.
- The Alliance supports employment at-will.
- The Alliance opposes further attempts to increase workers' compensation benefits through excessive cost increases to employers.
- The Alliance opposes state requirements pertaining to labor and employment laws that exceed federal requirements.
- The Alliance supports maximizing privatization opportunities of state services if delivery of comparable services could be provided at equal or less cost.
- The Alliance supports a regulatory environment that does not place an undue burden on business.
- The Alliance supports using all dollars from designated funds only for purposes originally intended.
- The Alliance supports local governments' ability to offer economic development incentives.
- The Alliance supports oversight measures to protect businesses from excessive administrative rules and executive orders.
- The Alliance supports comprehensive ballot and initiative reform.
- The Alliance supports responsible healthcare reform that does not place an undue burden on business.

# EAST VALLEY DELEGATION

## 49<sup>TH</sup> Legislature, Second Regular Session

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House Information – (602) 926-3559

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**District 8 (Fountain Hills, Scottsdale)**

Senator Carolyn Allen (R-Scottsdale)  
Representative John Kavanagh (R-Fountain Hills)  
Representative Michele Reagan (R-Scottsdale)

**District 17 (Scottsdale, Tempe)**

Senator Meg Burton-Cahill (D-Tempe)  
Representative Ed Ableser (D-Tempe)  
Representative David Schapira (D-Tempe)

**District 18 (W. Mesa)**

Senator Russell Pearce (R-Mesa)  
Representative Cecil Ash (R-Mesa)  
Representative Steve Court (R-Mesa)

**District 19 (E. Mesa)**

Senator Chuck Gray (R-Mesa)  
Representative Kirk Adams (R-Mesa)  
Representative Rich Crandall (R-Mesa)

**District 20 (Ahwatukee, W. Chandler, S. Tempe)**

Senator John Huppenthal (R-Chandler)  
Representative John McComish (R-Phoenix)  
Representative Rae Waters (D-Phoenix)

**District 21 (E. Chandler, Sun Lakes, Queen Creek)**

Senator Jay Tibshraeny (R-Chandler)  
Representative Warde Nichols (R-Chandler)  
Representative Steve Yarbrough (R-Chandler)

**District 22 (Gilbert, S. Mesa)**

Senator Thayer Verschoor (R-Gilbert)  
Representative Andy Biggs (R-Gilbert)  
Representative Laurin Hendrix (R-Gilbert)

**District 23 (Apache Junction, Pinal County)**

Senator Rebecca Rios (D-Apache Junction)  
Representative Barbara McGuire (D-Kearny)  
Representative Frank Pratt (R-Casa Grande)

## Member Organizations

**Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber of Commerce**

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**Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce**

567 W. Apache Trail • Apache Junction, AZ 85120  
(480) 982-3141 • Fax (480) 982-3234

**Chandler Chamber of Commerce**

25 South Arizona Place #201 • Chandler, AZ 85225  
(480) 963-4571 • Fax (480) 963-0188

**Gilbert Chamber of Commerce**

119 N. Gilbert Road, Suite 101 • Gilbert, AZ 85234  
(480) 892-1103 • Fax (480) 892-1980

**PAST CHAIRPERSONS**

- 1999** Dave Olney, Chandler Chamber of Commerce
- 2000** Joannie Flatt, East Valley Partnership
- 2001** Tony Hyland, Gilbert Chamber of Commerce
- 2002** Craig Ahlstrom, Mesa Chamber of Commerce
- 2003** Vic Linoff, Tempe Chamber of Commerce
- 2004** Cliff Axt, Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce
- 2005** Karen Cupps, Chandler Chamber of Commerce
- 2006** Lorraine Bergman, Gilbert Chamber of Commerce
- 2007** Jim Best, Mesa Chamber of Commerce
- 2008** Rustyn Sherer, Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce
- 2009** Marilyn Joyce, Tempe Chamber of Commerce

**Mesa Chamber of Commerce**

120 N. Center Street • Mesa, AZ 85201  
(480) 969-1307 • Fax (480) 827-0727

**Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce**

21321 E. Ocotillo Road #B-105 • Queen Creek, AZ 85142  
(480) 888-1709 • Fax (480) 304-4798

**Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce**

4725 N. Scottsdale Road #210 • Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
(480) 355-2700 • Fax (480) 355-2710

**Tempe Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box 28500 • Tempe, AZ 85285  
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