



Greater Phoenix
Chamber of
Commerce

2011 PUBLIC POLICY GUIDE



Public Affairs Committee

Chair: **Susan Anable, Cox Communications**

Vice Chair: **David Schwartz, Goodman Schwartz Public Affairs**

A message from Susan...

The decisions of lawmakers on the city and state level have a significant impact on every facet of the business community. They regularly enact legislation impacting taxes, the state budget, health care, employee relations, workers' compensation, unemployment, permits and licenses, land use and a multitude of other subjects which affect employers and their employees. Moving ahead into 2011, current economic times create greater challenges and make for harder decisions by the business community, their employees and our elected officials, alike. As such, I want to thank the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce members who serve on the Public Affairs and issue committees for their efforts and commitment to developing our 2011 Public Policy Guide.

As you may know, the process by which the Chamber builds consensus on public policy priorities takes members' expertise, time, and support. The six issue committees, in addition to the Small Business Leadership Council, work to develop suggested parameters for Chamber positions. Next, the Public Affairs Committee continues to tap member expertise by reviewing issue committee recommendations, discussing and debating the issues, fine-tuning the recommendations and determining the final slate of issues to send to the Board of Directors for final approval.

The work of the Public Affairs Committee doesn't end at the completion of the Public Policy Guide. Throughout the legislative and city council sessions, members meet to review bills, hear presentations about the pro's and con's of various legislative measures, make public policy position recommendations, and unite together in support of or against legislation impacting jobs, business retention and expansion, employees, capital investment and economic stability.

In sum, the Public Affairs Committee can be one of the most effective ways to obtain a greater understanding of the issues, influence the public policy, come together with other members who care about the vitality of the economy, and engage with elected officials. If you are not a current member of the Public Affairs Committee, please consider joining. The Committee meets the second and fourth Friday of each month. To find out more information, please call 602-495-6497.

As chairman of the Public Affairs Committee, I look forward to continuing our work together.

Agriculture, Environment & Water Issue Committee

Chair: **Ann Becker, Pinnacle West Capital**

Vice Chair: **Dave Roberts, Salt River Project**

Guiding Principles:

- Advocate for policies that protect public health and enhance Arizona's natural resources and environment, while protecting the rights of the regulated community and encouraging economic development.
- Advocate for legislation and regulation that:
 - a. Recognizes Arizona's unique environment;
 - b. Is based on sound science;
 - c. Is cost-effective;
 - d. Is technologically feasible;
 - e. Provides regulatory certainty;
 - f. Minimizes and fairly allocates compliance costs;
 - g. Is consistent with and not duplicative of existing federal and state legislation and regulation;
 - h. Promotes innovation and market-based strategies;
 - i. Is based on clear statutory authority; and
 - j. Promotes and preserves administration by the state of Arizona.

Budget & Tax

Chair: **Gretchen Kitchel, Pinnacle West Capital**

Vice Chair: **Janna Day, Brownstein Hyatt Farber & Schreck**

Guiding Principles:

- Support equitable tax and fiscal policies that will attract new investment and bring jobs to Greater Phoenix and Arizona while allowing existing businesses to flourish.
- Support policies that balance the collection of revenues to maintain essential services and constitutionally mandated requirements, while ensuring continued economic vitality of business and industry.
- Place priority on efforts to create jobs and facilitate economic growth when considering tax reform proposals.

Economic Development

Chair: **Jill Kusy-Hegardt, DMB & Associates, Inc.**

Vice Chair: **Jeff Fairman, Sundt Construction**

Guiding Principles:

- In partnership with Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC), Greater Phoenix Leadership (GPL), Arizona Department of Commerce (or its successor agency), the city of Phoenix, Arizona Office of Tourism, and the

Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry, support initiatives to increase Arizona's competitiveness with other states/regions, including changes to tax structure, recruitment and incentive programs, and legislative and operational changes.

- Support policies at all levels of government to ensure the retention and expansion of businesses in the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan area, with particular emphasis on wealth building employers¹.
- Support efforts to increase the visibility of Greater Phoenix Metropolitan area opportunities.
- Support initiatives to recruit leisure and business travel to Arizona and in particular, the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan region.

¹ In general, wealth building employers attract non-local dollars to an economy and possess one or more of the following characteristics: A. Produce products and/or services that are exported out of the region; B. Produce something tangible or intangible (manufacturing or research) that brings non-local dollars into the region (wealth-building); C. Distribute products out of the region; and/ or D. Encourage leisure and business visitation and tourism

Health Care

Chair: **Barbara Meaney, Triadvocates**

Vice Chair: **Kathi Beranek, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona**

Guiding Principles:

- Advocate for a health care system that offers affordable, cost-effective and quality health care options to businesses and individuals.
- Oppose cost increases brought about by unnecessary government regulation, cost-shifting and coverage requirements.
- Support policies that reduce the number of uninsured.
- Support measures that reduce uncompensated care.

Small Business Leadership Council

Chair: **Tom Cooper, Desert Fleet-Serv**

Guiding Principles:

With 97% of Arizona's businesses being small, the creation and sustainability of small and independent businesses is critical to the health of Arizona's economy. To foster a strong small business community, the Chamber will:

- Support equitable tax policies on all levels of government that encourage small businesses to flourish;
- Support a state, county, and local regulatory climate that encourages business retention and growth, and promotes job creation; and
- Support legal and employment-related reforms that do not impose unreasonable burdens or penalties on business.

Transportation

Chair: **Kevin Olson, Steptoe & Johnson**

Vice Chair: **Deborah Ostreicher, Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport**

Guiding Principles:

A quality transportation system that allows people and goods to move quickly, conveniently, and reliably around the region is necessary to preserve and improve quality of life, economic growth and environmental quality. In order to help build and maintain a quality transportation system, the Chamber will:

- Support efforts to enhance all modes of transportation that move people and goods efficiently while contributing to a sustainable and healthy economy.
- Support transportation investments that will improve mobility and contribute to economic development, jobs and sources of revenue for the region.
- Support efforts to enhance the regional air transportation system, including Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport's continuing role as the region's premier airport. Efforts will include advocating for maintenance and improvement of the competitive air transportation environment, including quality service and affordable, efficient and safe passenger and cargo operations for the region.

Workforce Committee

Chair: **Marc Osborn, R&R Partners**

Vice Chair: **Don Hughes, Kutack Rock**

Guiding Principles:

- Advocate for employment policies that encourage job retention, job creation and continued business expansion.
- Support the rights of employers to determine appropriate employment policies and procedures to meet the unique needs of their business or organization, as well as reduce costs and administrative burdens. Key areas include labor issues, workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, and job training.
- Work to create a system of public and private educational institutions, secondary and post-secondary, that provides a competent and dynamic workforce.
- Advocate for educational curricula policies that decrease the high school drop-out rate, including increased alternative, career and technical education opportunities, and a focus on providing the needed skills in math and science.
- Demand high expectations of all students and the elimination of the achievement gap.

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To learn more about joining the Chamber, please visit our website
at www.phoenixchamber.com/join or contact Debbie Drotar at
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