

Central Arizona Chambers Coalition Proposed Legislative Priorities for 2009

Tourism

We support the continued funding of the Arizona Office of Tourism, recognizing the importance of this economic engine to all areas of the state.

Transportation

We support continued efforts to expedite the widening of Interstate 17 between Phoenix and Cordes Junction. There is a strong, vital connection between Yavapai County communities and Phoenix for business and for tourism.

We recognize that transportation needs far exceed revenues, so we will carefully review financial proposals that raise additional revenues for transportation needs statewide.

Business Development

We support efforts to cut taxes on business to allow our state to remain competitive with others. Perhaps of critical importance this year will be consideration of permanently repealing, or at the very least extending the temporary suspension of, the State Equalization Tax.

We support the continuation of job training programs.

We support efforts at the state and federal levels that address the need for a guest worker program.

Education

We recognize the need for continued efforts to reform school financing and student performance and we support efforts to prepare students for the diversified work places of the future.

We understand the value of our community college and the growing presence of state universities in Yavapai County. We encourage the Legislature to maintain appropriate funding levels for these education institutions.

Healthcare

Rural healthcare is a significant, growing issue in our communities. We support efforts that will improve the medical climate in Arizona, such as malpractice insurance reform.

We support the development of incentive packages for doctors that will aid new doctors in establishing their practices in rural Arizona.

We support any efforts that will allow non-profit groups such as chambers of commerce to offer group health insurance plans to their members.

Initiatives

We encourage efforts to reform the initiative process, including legislation that will make it harder for special interest initiatives to be placed on the ballot, efforts that will more clearly define the intent of initiatives and legislation that will adjust the filing deadline for petitions to allow proper review by the Secretary of State and local jurisdictions.

Energy

We support the study of alternative energy sources and incentives to encourage businesses and individuals to use alternative energy, such as solar and windpower.

We support energy conservation incentives for new residential and commercial construction.

We support environmentally sensitive mining in central and northern Arizona as a vital economic engine for our region.

Affordable Housing

We support efforts to improve the affordability of homes in our communities including incentives to those that build and make available affordable housing, reductions of fees and reduction of regulatory barriers.

We support proper funding of the Arizona Housing Trust Fund from Department of Revenue unclaimed deposits per state statutes.