



2016 Legislative Agenda



Introduction:

The Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce is a member-driven organization that takes public policy direction from the priorities of its membership. The Chamber is the leading advocate for local business; therefore, part of the Chamber's mission is to lead public and private interests in the Lake Havasu region to develop a climate in which business can create jobs and operate at a profit. In addition, the Chamber works diligently to enhance and maintain the unique lifestyle of rural Arizona and advocates heavily for issues that affect an economy centered primarily on the tourism industry, the health care industry and light manufacturing.

In order to complete this mission, the Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee reports on, analyzes and recommends action to the Board of Directors upon legislation, regulation and other governmental actions that comes to its attention.

State, congressional, county and local pieces of legislation are brought to the attention of the Committee through research by staff, Committee members, Chamber members, partner organizations and lawmakers themselves. Once brought to the Committee's attention, the information is studied and analyzed. On occasion, the Committee will conduct a survey of the membership to assist in the process. Once research is completed, the Committee may develop a recommendation for the Board of Directors for its approval.

Once the Board of Directors makes a decision, Chamber staff can effectively advocate on behalf of the Chamber.

Membership on the Committee is limited to Chamber members in good standing and nonvoting liaisons from local and county government. The Committee Chairman and members are appointed by the Chairman and approved by the Board of Directors. Committee members are required to sign a commitment and conflict of interest agreement.

The Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce welcomes state legislators to the second session of the 52nd Arizona Legislature. This agenda deals with state legislation, but also local and federal issues; therefore we congratulate new officials and thank those already serving in public office. Our member businesses and employees are eager to work with you in strengthening our local and state economies. Formed in 1970 and incorporated in 1971, the Chamber represents more than 700 businesses that employ over 20,000 Lake Havasu area citizens.

Additionally, our Chamber is the charter member and actively involved in the Mohave County Chambers Coalition, a regional, governmental affairs organization of the chambers of commerce in Kingman, Bullhead City, Mohave Valley and other communities in Northwest Arizona; and the Local Chambers Committee of Arizona Chamber Executives. The Lake Havasu Area Chamber is a member of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the US Chamber of Commerce. However, the Chamber does not automatically align with any other organization's policy or position on any issue.

AGENDA

ACTION STATEMENT: The Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce works closely with government and leadership at city, county, state and federal levels to ensure the business climate at the local level sustains a positive business outlook. The Chamber supports quality growth and works toward creating conditions for a thriving economy. It does this by providing its members with products and services which include the representation of the interests of business with government and taking political action on business-related issues.

The following position statements have been adopted by the Board of Directors of the Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce as recommended by the Governmental Affairs Committee, to be regarded as priorities of the business members of this organization. This agenda clarifies and enhances the Lake Havasu Chamber's position on statements within the "2016 Legislative Agenda for Arizona Business", developed by the Local Chambers Committee of Arizona Chamber Executives.

EDUCATION/WORKFORCE:

- Support an education system that sets higher than average standards and expectations of all students, demands accountability within educational institutions, seeks to eliminate the achievement gap and to develop graduates who possess workforce skills needed by business and industry to succeed in today's economy.
- Support the continued funding of Joint Technical Education Districts in Arizona.
- Support continuation of the Arizona School Tax Credit program with parity for public and private schools districts.
- Support legislation that funds specific education goals with parity for public and private school districts.
- Support local and state initiatives to sustain, grow and enhance degree programs in the Lake Havasu area.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING/TOURISM-HOSPITALITY:

- Support and assist in the implementation of Lake Havasu City's Vision 20/20 Revitalization Plan.
- Support the extension of the Arizona Office of Tourism through 2024.
- Support the reauthorization of the Arizona Commerce Authority and encourage additional attention to rural Arizona.
- Support legislation that creates a Tax Increment Funding or Revenue Allocation District for Arizona cities and towns.
- Oppose the Department of Labor's proposed Overtime Regulation stipulations and level of minimum pay for exempt employees.

- Support continued funding for improvements to Lake Havasu State Park and to area parks and trails operated and maintained by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).
- Support the effort to keep all trails on BLM and Arizona State Trust lands open for recreational tourism use.
- Support the effort of Lake Havasu City, Mohave County and tourism stakeholders in fee minimization negotiations regarding the use of Lake Havasu with any/all governmental entities.
- Support legislation that preserves or enhances the state shared revenue model and opposes legislation that would eliminate or modify the state shared revenue formula and reduce revenues for the incorporated cities in Mohave County.
- Support efforts to repair, enhance, maintain and create additional and sustainable projects on Lake Havasu City and the Colorado River and in the surrounding desert areas that spur further tourism/economic growth while protecting our unique environment.
- Support legislation that will protect the City's ability to offer tax incentives to facilitate economic development.
- Support economic development legislation that incentivizes employers to enhance current and create new jobs for Arizonans.
- Oppose legislation that sweeps dedicated funds including the State Lakes Improvement Fund that was originally intended to grow the economy.
- Support legislation that streamlines the administrative processes necessary for acquisition, private sale or lease of property under control of the Arizona State Land Department.
- Support local preference initiatives in the award of contracts for Lake Havasu City, Mohave County, the Lake Havasu Unified School District, the WAVE JTED District, the Mohave County Community College District, and other local and regional governmental jurisdictions and compels said governments to work with and use local contractors.
- The Chamber supports federal legislation that provides a permanent ban on internet taxes.
- The Chamber supports legislation that defines a 40-Hour Work Week.

TRANSPORTATION/INFRASTRUCTURE

- Support the acceleration of statewide highway and road construction to enhance reasonable commerce, and encourage attention toward Arizona's rural highways.
- Support legislation that facilitates and funds regional transportation systems to serve the greater Mohave County area.
- Support the re-establishment of the Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) program to its original purpose and the repayment of funds swept from the fund in recent years.

TAXES:

- Oppose legislation that raises any type of new and/or existing tax on business.
- Support state legislation that requires early conformity with federal tax laws to relieve burden on Arizona tax payers.
- Support legislation that automatically conforms with changes in federal law, eliminating the need to annually conform or not conform.
- If conformity is not accomplished by the legislature, support other legislation that would increase Section 179 depreciation from \$25,000/year to the federal amount of \$500,000.
- Support legislation to allow corporate contributions to local school districts, making them eligible for the School Tax Credit, similar to what is allowed individuals. Credit for corporate contributions to Private School Tuition Organizations are currently allowed; this would allow for additional funding sources for local, public school districts.

ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY:

- Support State Primacy under the EPA Clean Power Plan. Support state and Arizona's tribal sovereign nations in developing plans regarding the reduction of power plant emissions. Support Arizona in its legal pursuit against the EPA in the event the EPA doesn't provide lawful deference to the states reasoned policy and technical determinations.
- Oppose federal over-regulation of industrial facilities.
- Support Environmental legislation and regulation that doesn't increase the administrative burden of unnecessary rules, regulations, or project delays which are cost-prohibitive for business.
- Support legislation that will remove barriers to and incentivize, rather than mandate, the expansion of clean and renewable energy so that Mohave County and Arizona can become leaders in job creation in this emerging industry.
- Support legislation that provides funding for public works projects to protect and enhance groundwater quality.
- Support local and state legislation with a focus on natural resources including Solar and Wind-generated power development.
- Support the continuation of development of uranium mining in Mohave County, Arizona, and the surrounding counties in Arizona and Utah.
- Support legislation that will encourage the establishment of a mechanism enabling local government to create renewable energy and conservation financing districts.
- Support legislation that ensures responsible water conservation while also ensuring responsible, unlimited recreational use of the Colorado River and Lake Havasu.
- Support legislation that prevents water transfers from Mohave and La Paz Counties to other counties/governmental entities outside of Mohave and La Paz Counties/private industry without thorough research and open communication with Mohave and La Paz County residents and governmental entities.

IMMIGRATION:

- The Chamber believes immigration issues should be resolved at the federal level and encourages programs that provide for an adequate legal workforce and educational opportunities for immigrants while maintaining the safety and integrity of our national borders and protects businesses that operate legally within the State of Arizona.

HEALTHCARE:

- Oppose unnecessary state regulations, cost shifting, coverage requirements and government mandates.
- Support efforts to train and recruit health care professionals in rural Arizona.

Elected Official Contact Information

United States Congress

Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ)
202.224.4521
www.flake.senate.gov

Senator John McCain (R-AZ)
202.224.2235
www.mccain.senate.gov

Congressman Paul Gosar (R-AZ, LD 4)
202.225.2315
www.gosar.house.gov

Arizona Legislature District 5

Senator Susan Donahue (R)
602.926.4138
sdonahue@azleg.gov

Representative Sonny Borrelli (R)
602.926.5051
sborrelli@azleg.gov

Representative Regina Cobb (R)
602.926.3126
rcobb@azleg.gov

Mohave County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Buster Johnson (Dist. 3)
928.453.0724
buster.johnson@mohavecounty.us

Supervisor Steve Moss (Dist. 5)
928.758.0739
steve.moss@mohavecounty.us

Lake Havasu City Council

Mayor Mark Nexsen
928.453.4152
nexsenm@lhcaz.gov

Vice Mayor Don Callahan
928.453.4140
callahand@lhcaz.gov

Council Member Dean Barlow
928.453.4140
barlowd@lhcaz.gov

Council Member Donna Brister
928.453.4140
bristerd@lhcaz.gov

Council Member Jeni Coke
928.453.4140
cokej@lhcaz.gov

Council Member Michele Lin
928.453.4140
linm@lhcaz.gov

Council Member Cal Sheehy
928-415-4140
sheehyc@lhcaz.gov



Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce
314 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86403
928.855.4115
www.havasuchamber.com