



2020 Legislative Session To Do List for Arizona Lawmakers

Dear Lawmakers:

Here is a list of important items we hope you will address in 2020 to create an economy that will lift-up all Arizonans and lay the foundation for the strong workforce Arizona will need for an even brighter future.

1. **Fully restore the public school funding that was cut beginning in 2009 for items such as textbooks, technology, curriculum, classroom materials and school buses.** The Governor and some lawmakers want Arizona's public schools to wait until 2023 for this funding to be fully restored, but Arizona's students cannot wait, let's get it done this year.
2. **Fix our public school buildings.** Public schools have been deprived more than \$3 billion over the last few years to repair their facilities leading to poor learning conditions and higher local property taxes.
3. **Fund need-based student financial aid.** Cuts to state-funded financial aid programs has made higher education out of reach to many Arizona families and individuals leading to more student debt. Arizona underfunded its Financial Aid Trust by more than \$25 million last year.
4. **Put \$30 million in the Housing Trust Fund,** a state fund to create more affordable housing. This fund was gutted in 2008 and never restored. Approximately one-third of all Arizona households are renters. 78 percent of very low-income renters in Arizona are paying significantly more than the recommended 30 percent of their income for housing costs.
5. **Restore the \$80 million for state childcare subsidies that have been cut since 2008.** Access to affordable, quality childcare is one of the most significant challenges Arizonans face to joining the workforce or going back to school.
6. **Invest in our state parks by appropriating \$10 million for the Heritage Fund** that was cut in 2009 and never restored. State parks create jobs and economic development in our rural communities where unemployment is as high as 16 percent.
7. **Pass meaningful criminal justice reform.** Arizona spends more to incarcerate people in our state prisons than we spend on all 3 state universities combined.
8. **Give all state employees a meaningful pay raise.** Arizona government is the largest employer in Arizona but state employees have not received an across the board pay raise since 2008 and their pay is not keeping up with the cost of living.
9. **Provide Arizona workers with a state paid family and medical leave program.** Nearly everyone needs to take time off from work at some point to care for a sick family member, or a new child, or to deal with serious personal illness. Providing Arizona workers with paid family and medical leave will encourage economic growth and put families first.
10. **Vote NO on all new tax cuts, credits and exemptions.** The Arizona legislature has cut taxes every year but one since 1990 reducing state revenue by more than \$5 billion annually. Arizona has a lot of needs (see #'s 1-9 above) – we need the revenue!