

# 2022

## WESTMARC LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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*Fifteen Communities...One Voice*

**WESTMARC Communities - *Fifteen Communities...One Voice***

Avondale	Peoria	Buckeye	West Phoenix
El Mirage	Surprise	Gila Bend	Tolleson
Glendale	Wickenburg	Litchfield Park	Youngtown
Goodyear	Sun City	Sun City West	

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## Intent & Purpose:

**This legislative agenda is intended to guide conversation and position statements of WESTMARC during the 2022 Legislative Session. If proposed legislation requires further clarity in terms of establishing an official position or providing for action, it will be brought forward for consideration through the existing operating policies and procedures. All position statements or actions regarding proposed legislation will be communicated to WESTMARC's members.**

## Economic Development

- WESTMARC supports efforts to enhance the range of economic development funding mechanisms available in Arizona.
- WESTMARC supports governments' ability to review, evaluate and sunset economic development incentives.
- WESTMARC supports the protection of existing Economic Development tools such as the foreign trade zone and opportunity zone benefits that attract business to Arizona.
- WESTMARC supports efforts to develop and promote a skilled and knowledgeable workforce.
- WESTMARC supports workforce housing solutions that are affordable and sustainable.
- WESTMARC supports Covid-19 liability legislation. Support legislation that aims to protect business owners, employers, building owners and landlords, and education and governmental agencies from Covid-19 related lawsuits provided they are following recognized experts, federal, state or local authority's guidance, rules and laws.

## Education

- WESTMARC supports high expectations for all Arizona students via rigorous academic standards, an aligned assessment and a fair, equitable and meaningful accountability system to measure academic progress.
- WESTMARC supports appropriate funding and fiscal management for sustainable, long term funding mechanisms that provide an appropriate level of resources for K-12 education, including all-day kindergarten and teacher compensation.
- WESTMARC supports appropriate funding for Career and Technical Education Districts (West-MEC) and Career Technical Education programs and excellent workforce preparation.
- WESTMARC supports appropriate funding and fiscal management for, the Maricopa County Community College District.
- WESTMARC supports strengthening universities with a stable funding model to ensure access for qualified students, world-class research capabilities and excellent workforce preparation.
- WESTMARC supports the efforts that advance the Arizona Education Progress Meter goals that culminate with Achieve 60AZ to reach the statewide attainment goal of 60% by the year 2030, including reducing the amount of unfunded mandates to be tasked to our pK - 12 schools.
- WESTMARC supports career literacy for students from kindergarten through postsecondary.

## Fiscal Responsibility/Taxation

- WESTMARC supports clear, understandable, and practicable tax and fiscal policies that will retain and grow existing business, attract new capital investments and promote job growth in Arizona.
- WESTMARC supports the preservation of state shared revenues at current levels and opposes any reduction or cap.
- WESTMARC opposes rollovers and sweeps of dedicated funds as a mechanism for balancing the budget.
- WESTMARC supports continuous improvement of Department of Revenue policies and procedures to ensure tax collection accuracy, management and system ease of use by taxpayer.

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## Health Care

- WESTMARC supports appropriate reimbursement of healthcare providers.
- WESTMARC supports continuing and improving access to healthcare.
- WESTMARC supports efforts to grow a diverse, efficient, and effective healthcare system.
- WESTMARC supports available treatment and support for behavioral health and substance abuse issues.
- WESTMARC supports healthcare workforce policies that address the unprecedented health care worker shortages across the healthcare industry and build a high-quality health professions pipeline that seeks to meet the demands of Arizona communities for years to come. Support solutions that leverage Arizona's existing healthcare workforce in areas of training, retention and recruitment opportunities to mitigate statewide healthcare workforce shortages.

## Infrastructure

- Recognizing that infrastructure is essential to enable job creation and economic development, WESTMARC supports ongoing efforts to develop new short and long term funding as well as expand and increase existing funding (i.e. gas tax) to meet Arizona's infrastructure needs.
- WESTMARC opposes sweeps of Highway User Revenue Funds, Prop 400 Funds, State Aviation Funds and any other dedicated transportation funds.
- WESTMARC supports multimodal transportation options for the West Valley.
- WESTMARC supports the planning and development of an efficient transportation system in the West Valley.
- WESTMARC recognizes that water is a finite resource and thus supports responsible water management practices and conservation efforts, including preservation of the 1980 Groundwater Management Act.
- WESTMARC supports appropriate action to ensure Arizona has an adequate supply of gasoline, broadband, electricity, natural gas, water and other critical resources.
- WESTMARC supports the protection of critical energy infrastructure, including generation, transmission, and distribution assets.
- WESTMARC supports the implementation and funding for the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) that strengthens Arizona's supply of Colorado River water while not weakening our long-term water management.
- WESTMARC supports the ongoing planning efforts for the extension of Prop.400, along with the future pursuit of enabling legislation that would allow the extension of the regional tax to be placed before voters.
- WESTMARC supports the planning and construction efforts of I-11.

## Legal and Regulatory Affairs

- WESTMARC supports a pro-business environment that does not place undue burden on business.
- WESTMARC supports local governments as partners in economic development.

## Military Preservation

- WESTMARC supports managed growth and development surrounding Luke Air Force Base and we strongly support existing state legislation and local ordinances that help to protect its long-term mission.

## Quality of Life

- WESTMARC supports diverse opportunities for residents and visitors to experience arts & culture, sports & entertainment and food & fashion that enrich the region for economic development and celebrate and enhance the uniqueness of the West Valley
- WESTMARC supports responsible growth with respect to preserving the natural environment and open spaces.
- WESTMARC supports the development and enhancement of events, venues and regional partnerships that provide opportunities for recreation, health and wellness.