

## AHWATUKEE FOOTHILLS

Terri Kimble, President / CEO  
Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber of Commerce  
Charles Thompson  
Workforce Experts  
Harvey Gibson  
Tempe Schools Credit Union

## APACHE JUNCTION

Larry Johnson, President / CEO  
Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce  
Kathryn Miller  
Banner Health Systems

## CHANDLER

Dave Warkentin, President / CEO  
Chandler Chamber of Commerce  
Jamie Natividad  
Cox Communications

Richard Jordan  
Air Products

## GILBERT

Kathy Langdon Tilque, President / CEO  
Gilbert Chamber of Commerce  
Jeff Mirasola  
Qwest Communications

Lorraine Bergman  
Caliente Construction, Inc.

## MESA

Charlie Deaton, President / CEO  
Mesa Chamber of Commerce  
Jim Winterton  
Johnson Bank  
Tom Rhodes  
Arque Capital Ltd

## QUEEN CREEK

Marquis Scott, President / CEO  
Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce

## SCOTTSDALE

Rick Kidder, President / CEO  
Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce  
Kurt Zitzer  
Meagher & Geer PLLP  
Bill Heckman  
Heckman Marketing Associates, Inc.

## TEMPE

Mary Ann Miller, President / CEO  
Tempe Chamber of Commerce  
Steve Bauer  
Development Strategies, Inc.  
Dave Long  
Edward Jones

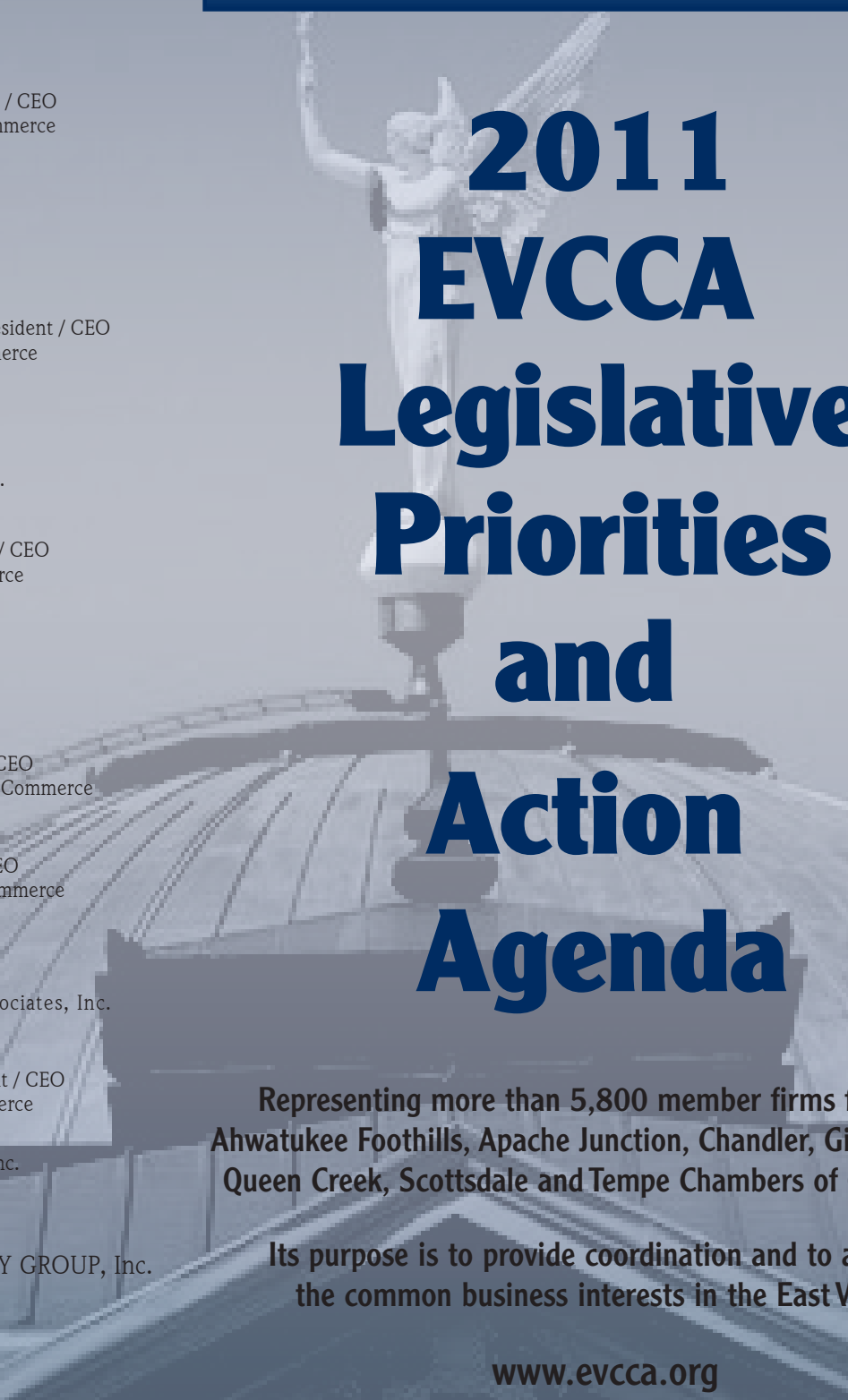
## STAFF- DORN POLICY GROUP, Inc.

Tom Dorn  
Eric Emmert  
Heather Bernacki

EAST VALLEY CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ALLIANCE

# EVCCA

The Voice of East Valley Business  
Ahwatukee Foothills    Apache Junction    Chandler    Gilbert  
Mesa    Queen Creek    Scottsdale    Tempe



# 2011 EVCCA Legislative Priorities and Action Agenda

Representing more than 5,800 member firms from the  
Ahwatukee Foothills, Apache Junction, Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa,  
Queen Creek, Scottsdale and Tempe Chambers of Commerce.

Its purpose is to provide coordination and to advance  
the common business interests in the East Valley.

[www.evcca.org](http://www.evcca.org)

# Policy Statements *(in alphabetical order)*

The italicized statements preceding the policy statements for each subject area are the guiding principles through which all legislation is evaluated. The Alliance firmly believes these guiding principles are the cornerstone to a sound and productive business environment.

## Access to Healthcare

*The Alliance believes healthcare policies should not place an undue burden on business. The current litigation system must be reformed.*

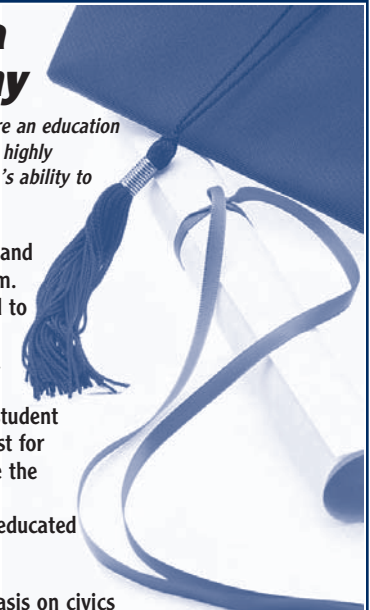
- The Alliance urges significant tort reform measures including limits on damages to reduce the costs of healthcare and health insurance. Healthcare related tort reform will encourage attraction and retention of a qualified healthcare workforce.
- The Alliance opposes health insurance mandates.
- The Alliance encourages innovative measures to assist businesses in providing private healthcare coverage for employees.
- The Alliance supports reasonable Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) payment rates that cover hospital costs and would minimize hidden healthcare costs on employers.



## Education for a Strong Economy

*The Alliance believes businesses require an education system that produces a well-educated, highly skilled workforce that elevates Arizona's ability to compete globally.*

- The Alliance supports improving and aligning the K-20 education system. Increased funding should be linked to improved student retention, performance and graduation rates.
- The Alliance supports requiring student passage of a state standardized test for high school graduation to measure the competency of students' academic and workplace skills to ensure an educated workforce.
- The Alliance urges greater emphasis on civics education and business education to prepare students for politically-informed citizenship and understanding of business issues.
- The Alliance urges a greater emphasis in the Arizona public education system on science, technology, engineering and mathematics to compete aggressively in the global economy.
- The Alliance urges innovative methods to increase access of technology to advance education delivery at all grade levels including universities and community colleges.
- The Alliance supports strategic investments in Arizona State University, community colleges and other public universities.
- The Alliance supports equitable per-pupil funding of Arizona's state universities.
- The Alliance encourages the Legislature to develop a balanced and equitable statewide formula to fund capital construction and building renewal other than the current Students First method. In determining the funding formula, the Alliance encourages the State to use projected growth rather than historical data.
- The Alliance opposes use of education rollovers to balance the State budget.
- The Alliance supports reasonable reforms pertaining to desegregation funding that will ensure accountability and appropriate use of these dollars.



EAST VALLEY CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ALLIANCE

# EVCCA

The Voice of East Valley Business  
Ahwatukee Foothills Apache Junction Chandler Gilbert  
Mesa Queen Creek Scottsdale Tempe

## ***Efficient and Effective Government***

*The Alliance believes streamlined and improved government processes are crucial to the success of Arizona businesses.*

- *A regulatory environment must enhance the business climate.*
- *Legislation, policy, and appropriations should be accomplished by elected legislators, not at the ballot box, through executive orders or multi-state coalitions.*
- *The initiative and ballot process must be reformed.*
- *State services should be privatized if they can be comparably and appropriately delivered at equal or less cost.*
- *Designated funds should not be swept.*

- The Alliance opposes attempts to preempt federal law that will place an additional burden on business.
- The Alliance supports efforts to increase requirements for ballot initiatives including but not limited to: advancing filing dates; permitting legislative changes to initiatives with voter ratification; increasing the number of required signatures; creating penalties for deceptive solicitation; clearly communicating the implications of Arizona's Voter Protection Act; establishing county requirements for signature collection similar to that of statewide offices; requiring legislative council to review and title initiatives prior to signature collection; and requiring those who sign a petition to complete the entire line.
- The Alliance supports a referendum suspending automatic spending increases for voter protected funds in a fiscal year when revenues do not meet projections.
- The Alliance supports a regular and periodic legislative review and modernization of budgetary formulas, including those for AHCCCS and education.
- The Alliance supports modernization that streamlines Arizona Corporation Commission business creation processes including online filing, publication requirement removal and same-day or next-day service.
- The Alliance supports modernization that streamlines state government processes that include but are not limited to paper reductions, process improvements, placing statutorily required public notices online and rightsizing state government.
- The Alliance supports greater transparency and efforts to streamline operations within Arizona government including an annual report by the State Treasurer to the Arizona Legislature.
- The Alliance supports the creation of an independently elected office of Lieutenant Governor that functions as a Secretary of State.
- The Alliance supports moving Arizona's primary elections for congressional, statewide, legislative and county offices to May.
- The Alliance urges the Legislature to refer to the voters the question of amending legislative terms of office. To provide continuity in the state legislative process, the Alliance supports increasing the terms for state senators from two to four years with staggered elections and increasing term limits for both chambers from eight to twelve years.
- The Alliance supports a transparent and accountable campaign finance system that promotes choice and is free of taxpayer-supported public funding.
- To reduce costs associated with frivolous legislation, the Alliance supports co-sponsorship requirements for legislative introduction such that each bill should have no fewer than five.

## ***Energy and the Environment***

*The Alliance believes state energy and environmental statutes and regulations should not exceed federal requirements. State energy policies should emphasize cost effective and stable energy supplies.*

- The Alliance is opposed to Arizona's participation in the Western Climate Initiative. Any greenhouse gas emission regulations should be addressed at the federal level.
- The Alliance urges that any energy efficiency legislation should provide incentives and practical, multiple options for business.
- The Alliance supports air quality legislation that provides businesses and citizens with incentives and practical, multiple options and does not exceed federal requirements.
- The Alliance supports a realistic and balanced approach to addressing Endangered Species Act requirements without negatively impacting the region's ability to develop economically.
- The Alliance supports incentives rather than mandates for "green initiatives".
- The Alliance supports appropriate action to ensure an adequate supply, necessary infrastructure and transmission of gasoline, electricity, natural gas, water and other critical resources to fuel our state's economic viability.
- The Alliance continues to support the fundamental concepts of the 1980 Groundwater Management Act. The Alliance also supports statewide development of long-term sustainable water supplies, coordination between active management areas, and encouragement of direct groundwater recharge projects and promotion of water conservation.
- The Alliance continues to support efforts, such as the Arizona Water Banking Authority, that will help enable Arizona to fully utilize its entire Colorado River entitlement. Full utilization of Arizona's entitlement will help to protect the state's Colorado River supply.

## **Fair Taxation for Economic Growth**

*The Alliance believes tax policy must enhance the business environment to promote job growth and business expansion. The integrity of designated funds should be honored.*

- The Alliance urges the Legislature to consider responsible well balanced tax reform. Any legislative amendments or referendums regarding taxation should promote a strong, viable business climate in Arizona and address the structural deficit.
- When tax supported funds are not being used for their intended purpose, the Alliance supports an immediate moratorium. Additionally, the Alliance urges regularly scheduled reviews of funds with dedicated revenue sources. If tax-supported funds are not being used for the intended purpose during regularly scheduled reviews, the tax and fund should be abolished.
- As an economic stimulus mechanism for small businesses, the Alliance advocates raising the business personal property tax exemption threshold.
- The Alliance supports the exploration of a state transaction privilege tax on out-of-state internet sales.
- The Alliance is opposed to passage of a Taxpayers' Bill of Rights (TABOR). It is important for Arizona to have flexibility in funding decisions to provide services to our population.
- The Alliance strongly urges the permanent repeal of the State equalization property tax.
- The Alliance urges the Legislature to address property tax inequities including implementing a prospective uniform secondary property tax assessment ratio in order to remain nationally competitive.
- The Alliance is opposed to taxing business-to-business transactions and business tax increases including the elimination of current business tax credits or business tax exemptions.
- The Alliance supports expanding an accelerated asset depreciation schedule for businesses.
- The Alliance supports expansion of the current research and development tax credit to encourage industry innovation and ensure a globally competitive position.
- The Alliance urges the Legislature to create a tax increment financing mechanism to improve Arizona's competitive position for business attraction.
- The Alliance urges revising and continuing an enterprise zone program.
- The Alliance opposes changes in the formula that would reduce the percentage of state shared revenues payable to cities and towns and opposes repayment requirements back to the State.
- The Alliance asks the Legislature to expedite consideration of the annual conformity legislation to allow businesses to prepare tax returns knowing Arizona has conformed to federal law.
- The Alliance believes regulatory fees should reflect administrative costs and not be used as revenue generation.

## **Jobs, Economic Vitality and Expansion**

*The Alliance believes a long-term economic competitiveness and marketing strategy is critical to Arizona's success. Local governments must have the ability to offer economic development incentives.*

- The Alliance supports legislative efforts that encourage job creation and expansion that include but are not limited to creation of a deal closing fund, base industry attraction, enterprise zone reform, income tax reductions, corporate tax reductions, job training reforms and sales factor calculation expansion.
- The Alliance encourages legislation that supports the Arizona Commerce Authority in adopting a long term strategic business development plan with performance goals, industry targets and accountability mechanisms, focusing on sustainable, high wage growth industries.
- The Alliance supports continued emphasis on the importance of job training and workforce development. Unless the current job training program is significantly altered, the Alliance supports replenishing depleted job training funds as quickly as possible. Funding for training and development of Arizona's workforce should receive priority, including vocational training and skilled worker programs customized to the needs of Arizona's employers. Job training funds should be made more easily accessible to small businesses.
- The Alliance urges an immediate moratorium on the collection of the State Job Training Fund taxes until such time that the funds are used for the intended purpose.
- The Alliance supports the implementation of a nationwide and international destination marketing plan for Arizona.
- The Alliance supports aggressive development of science, technology and engineering within Arizona through incentives for public and private investment in research and development.

## **Land Management for Economic Prosperity**

*The Alliance believes land should be managed as an economic driver. Zoning and land use around military installations and airports should advance the mission of those facilities.*

- The Alliance encourages a balanced approach to development, recreational use and preservation of State Trust land.
- The Alliance supports reasonable reforms to the State Land Department that would modernize its operations and maximize the economic return of State Trust lands for the trust beneficiaries.
- The Alliance supports planning of State Trust lands that will thoroughly evaluate the impacts of such planning decisions on businesses and communities.
- The Alliance supports continued implementation of the Growing Smarter Act with a balanced emphasis on local control of planning, orderly growth and open space preservation.
- The Alliance supports policies by which counties abide by town/city general plans when reviewing and approving proposed developments as intended by the Growing Smarter Act.
- The Alliance supports local control of land-use decisions and opposes expansion of the "Private Property Rights Protection Act."



## **Transportation Infrastructure**

*The Alliance believes connecting employees and goods to job centers should be through a multimodal transportation system.*

- The Alliance urges use of innovative transportation solutions that maximize multimodal connectivity, such as public-private partnerships and commuter rail, to improve movement of people and goods in the East Valley and Pinal County.
- The Alliance is opposed to any shifting or repealing of funds currently designated for the development and maintenance of the East Valley regional freeway system. Any efforts to further expedite transportation project construction should be based on programmed projects, immediate congestion relief, air quality compliance and should be multimodal in nature.
- More state and federal transportation dollars should be appropriated to the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale metropolitan statistical area and northeast Pinal County based on revenue generated, vehicle miles traveled and population.
- The Alliance recognizes the regional airport system as an economic catalyst. The Alliance opposes efforts to reduce funding, particularly when the receipt of federal funds is jeopardized, that will negatively impact operations or expansion and strongly supports legislation to advance the missions of these facilities.
- The Alliance supports immediate construction of the Williams Gateway Freeway.
- The Alliance supports measures by the Legislature to encourage our congressional delegation to fight for Arizona's fair share of federal transportation dollars during reauthorization of the federal surface transportation program.
- The Alliance supports the planning and development of international trade routes through Arizona.



## **Workforce Management**

*The Alliance believes arizona must remain a "right to work" and "employment at-will" state. State employment laws should not exceed federal requirements. Changes to workers' compensation benefits should not increase costs to employers.*

- The Alliance supports an evaluation by the Legislature of state employee total compensation packages.
- The Alliance supports responsible corrective measures to ensure solvency of the Arizona Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.
- The Alliance supports guaranteeing employees the right to vote by secret ballot in labor union organization decisions.
- The Alliance asks the Legislature to urge Congress to establish a program providing an adequate legal workforce while maintaining the integrity of our national borders and providing protection of the rights and benefits of legal citizens. Businesses that unknowingly hire illegal immigrants, while following all applicable state and federal laws, should not be sanctioned.
- The Alliance supports an Arizona state guest worker pilot program.
- The Alliance supports medical care and administrative reforms that attempt to decrease workers' compensation costs.



## **EVCCA's Expectation for the 50th Legislature**

As Arizona moves toward its centennial celebration, the East Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance expects the Legislature to do everything in its power to return this great State to the economic stability and entrepreneurial vitality worthy of its proud heritage. Arizonans need jobs now! Arizona businesses need dependable tax policy and restrained government oversight so they can create jobs now in all sectors of our State's economy. The EVCCA urges the 2011 Legislature to implement the following priorities promptly to stimulate job growth in Arizona in time for our 100th statehood anniversary.

# **2011 EVCCA Legislative Priorities**

### **Job Creation**

The Alliance supports legislative efforts that encourage job creation and expansion that include but are not limited to creation of a deal closing fund, base industry attraction, enterprise zone reform, income tax reductions, corporate tax reductions, job training reforms and sales factor calculation expansion.

### **Business Personal Property Tax**

As an economic stimulus mechanism for small businesses, the Alliance advocates raising the business personal property tax exemption threshold.

### **Commerce Authority**

The Alliance encourages legislation that supports the Arizona Commerce Authority in adopting a long term strategic business development plan with performance goals, industry targets and accountability mechanisms, focusing on sustainable, high wage growth industries.

### **Initiative Reform**

The Alliance supports efforts to increase requirements for ballot initiatives including but not limited to: advancing filing dates; permitting legislative changes to initiatives with voter ratification; increasing the number of required signatures; creating penalties for deceptive solicitation; clearly communicating the implications of Arizona's Voter Protection Act; establishing county requirements for signature collection similar to that of statewide offices; requiring legislative council to review and title initiatives prior to signature collection; and requiring those who sign a petition to complete the entire line.

### **Moratorium on Designated Tax Supported Funds**

When tax supported funds are not being used for their intended purpose, the

Alliance supports an immediate moratorium. Additionally, the Alliance urges regularly scheduled reviews of funds with dedicated revenue sources. If tax-supported funds are not being used for the intended purpose during regularly scheduled reviews, the tax and fund should be abolished.

### **Public Pension Reform**

The Alliance supports an evaluation by the Legislature of state employee total compensation packages.

### **State Shared Revenues**

The Alliance opposes changes in the formula that would reduce the percentage of state shared revenues payable to cities and towns and opposes repayment requirements back to the State.

### **State Transaction Privilege Tax**

The Alliance supports the exploration of a state transaction privilege tax on out-of-state internet sales.

### **Tax Reform**

The Alliance urges the Legislature to consider responsible well balanced tax reform. Any legislative amendments or referendums regarding taxation should promote a strong, viable business climate in Arizona and address the structural deficit.

### **Unemployment Insurance**

The Alliance supports responsible corrective measures to ensure solvency of the Arizona Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

# EAST VALLEY DELEGATION

## 50<sup>TH</sup> Legislature, First Regular Session

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**Mailing Address:**

Arizona State Capitol  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**E-mail Address:**

First initial + last name  
(e.g., kadams@azleg.gov)

**Phone:**

Senate Information – (602) 926-3559  
House Information – (602) 926-4221

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**District 8 (Fountain Hills, Scottsdale)**

Senator Michele Reagan (R-Scottsdale)  
Representative John Kavanagh (R-Fountain Hills)  
Representative Michelle Ugenti (R-Scottsdale)

**District 17 (Scottsdale, Tempe)**

Senator David Schapira (D-Tempe)  
Representative Ed Ableser (D-Tempe)  
Representative Ben Arredondo (D-Tempe)

**District 18 (W. Mesa)**

Senator Russell Pearce (R-Mesa)  
Representative Cecil Ash (R-Mesa)  
Representative Steve Court (R-Mesa)

**District 19 (E. Mesa)**

Senator Rich Crandall (R-Mesa)  
Representative Kirk Adams (R-Mesa)  
Representative Justin Olson (R-Mesa)

**District 20 (Ahwatukee, W. Chandler, S. Tempe)**

Senator John McComish (R-Ahwatukee Foothills)  
Representative Jeff Dial (R-Chandler)  
Representative Bob Robson (R-Chandler)

**District 21 (E. Chandler, Sun Lakes, Queen Creek)**

Senator Steve Yarbrough (R-Chandler)  
Representative Tom Forese (R-Gilbert)  
Representative J.D. Mesnard (R-Chandler)

**District 22 (Gilbert, S. Mesa)**

Senator Andy Biggs (R-Gilbert)  
Representative Eddie Farnsworth (R-Gilbert)  
Representative Steve Urie (R-Gilbert)

**District 23 (Apache Junction, Pinal County)**

Senator Steve Smith (R-Maricopa)  
Representative John Fillmore (R- Apache Junction)  
Representative Frank Pratt (R- Casa Grande)

## Member Organizations

**Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber of Commerce**

10235 S. 51st St. #185 • Phoenix, AZ 85044  
(480) 753-7676 • Fax (480) 753-3898

**Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce**

567 W. Apache Trail • Apache Junction, AZ 85120  
(480) 982-3141 • Fax (480) 982-3234

**Chandler Chamber of Commerce**

25 South Arizona Place #201 • Chandler, AZ 85225  
(480) 963-4571 • Fax (480) 963-0188

**Gilbert Chamber of Commerce**

119 N. Gilbert Road, Suite 101 • Gilbert, AZ 85234  
(480) 892-1103 • Fax (480) 892-1980

**PAST CHAIRPERSONS**

- 2000** Joannie Flatt, East Valley Partnership
- 2001** Tony Hyland, Gilbert Chamber of Commerce
- 2002** Craig Ahlstrom, Mesa Chamber of Commerce
- 2003** Vic Linoff, Tempe Chamber of Commerce
- 2004** Cliff Axt, Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce
- 2005** Karen Cupps, Chandler Chamber of Commerce
- 2006** Lorraine Bergman, Gilbert Chamber of Commerce
- 2007** Jim Best, Mesa Chamber of Commerce
- 2008** Rustyn Sherer, Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce
- 2009** Marilyn Joyce, Tempe Chamber of Commerce
- 2010** Kathryn Miller, Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce

**Mesa Chamber of Commerce**

120 N. Center Street • Mesa, AZ 85201  
(480) 969-1307 • Fax (480) 827-0727

**Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce**

21321 E. Ocotillo Road #B-105 • Queen Creek, AZ 85142  
(480) 888-1709 • Fax (480) 304-4798

**Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce**

4725 N. Scottsdale Road #210 • Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
(480) 355-2700 • Fax (480) 355-2710

**Tempe Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box 28500 • Tempe, AZ 85285  
(480) 967-7891 • Fax (480) 966-5365

**LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION**

Dorn Policy Group, Inc.  
3030 North Central Avenue  
Suite 1408  
Phoenix, AZ 85012  
(602) 606-4667 • Fax (602) 606-4668

**Lobbyists:**

Thomas C. Dorn – tom@dornpolicygroup.com  
Eric W. Emmert – eric@dornpolicygroup.com  
Heather M. Bernacki – heather@dornpolicygroup.com