

BLUEPRINT

for a

*Better
Arizona*



**ARIZONA'S 56TH
LEGISLATURE**

Rebuilding **THE ECONOMY**

There are currently two Arizona experiences: communities that have begun recovering from the lasting effects of the pandemic and those that have not. This reality has been ignored by Republicans for too long. We can promise that their inaction will not be mirrored in our caucus.



The people of Arizona deserve an economy that works for them - not the ultra-rich & well-connected. We stand in solidarity with our labor unions to provide Arizona with policies that ensure everyone has access to good jobs, fair wages, and affordable necessities.

We are committed to ensuring equitable access to vaccinations, a strengthened job market, and new opportunities to achieve financial stability for all. The pandemic shed light on our state's historical failure to make lasting investments in low-income communities and marginalized communities of color across the state. Moving forward we are working to ensure the remaining federal American Rescue Plan Act funds are used to support the communities that need them the most.

**A better Arizona for all is possible
with policy that addresses
longstanding shortcomings and
equitable opportunity in the future.**

Strong SCHOOLS



Arizonans agree that every child deserves a quality teacher and principal who will cultivate their lifelong success. Democrats have long fought beside parents, teachers, mental health professionals, administrators, education advocates, and business leaders to ensure investments in the resources our children need to succeed. Sadly, right-wing extremists have continuously undermined voter-approved investments in our schools and diverted taxpayer dollars to financially and academically unaccountable schools that can reject any student who doesn't meet their criteria. That's giving choice to the school, not parents.

Democrats stand with Arizona families who want nationally competitive salaries for teachers and staff, smaller class sizes to improve student success, more counselors and other mental-health professionals on campus, investment in universal Pre-K and full day kindergarten, and a permanent solution to the archaic school spending limit.



“In our continued effort to support public schools we will uplift the voices of teachers, students and education stakeholders regardless of zip code.”



**Rep. Jennifer Pawlik,
Sen. Christine Marsh**
Ranking Members on Education



The Housing CRISIS

Housing is a human right. Currently, Arizona is experiencing one of the worst housing crises in the nation. As prices rise, so does our homeless population. While some see homelessness as the consequence of one's personal choices, our caucus is committed to addressing the root causes of this injustice.

Vilifying those suffering from mental health crises, substance abuse, and unstable housing will never fix this problem in Arizona. Above all, our caucuses are unified in rejecting the further criminalization of those our state has consistently left behind. We know that housing is not a simple fix to systemic issues but must be paired with wrap-around services that ensure continued successful housing placement.

The reality of this issue is grounded in astronomically high rents, corporate greed, supply chain disruption, and lack of affordable housing options across the state. Democrats look forward to passing legislation that gets people off the streets and into homes. Our policy priorities will work to relieve the housing supply shortage and strengthen every community across our great state by ensuring quality shelter for all.

We believe that safe and secure housing anchors every other positive aspect of an individual's life.



Reproductive JUSTICE



Democrats will not shy away from ensuring every Arizonan has their full reproductive autonomy and privacy rights protected. We are committed to working with Governor Hobbs to remove the territorial ban on abortion, strengthen healthcare options for all, and ensure access to safe abortion care across our state.

For many, losing federal abortion protections has made their worst nightmares a reality. Republicans have been carrying out attacks on personal autonomy and reproductive healthcare for decades. This is as much a reproductive justice issue as it is an economic justice issue. Forcing people to give birth will trap many into generational cycles of poverty and violence.

The repeal of *Roe v. Wade* marked the first time that the Supreme Court stripped away a constitutionally protected right from the American people. We know that individuals and families are the most capable to make decisions about their futures.



Our ultimate goal is to enact a constitutional amendment that restores abortion access for every Arizonan.

**Rep. Athena Salman, Senate Leader
Raquel Terán, Rep. Melody
Hernandez**

Reproductive Rights Caucus Leaders



The Water & CLIMATE CRISIS

The time has come to prioritize our precious resources with direct and unrelenting action. After years of Democratic leadership on responsible natural resource management, the Arizona Legislature successfully passed a bipartisan water bill that gave Arizona many necessary tools to strengthen water infrastructure, conservation efforts, and long-term augmentation. The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority was also modernized and expanded to address urgent statewide challenges.

However, our work is far from over, and we recognize how urgently our water sustainability issues must be addressed. With ongoing deadly fire seasons, global temperatures on the rise, and severe drought conditions across the state, it is undeniable that Arizona is feeling the direct impacts of climate change. Without swift legislative action, this crisis will only get worse.

In partnership with experts and stakeholder groups, our caucuses are working on several ways to address these dire conditions and to find innovative measures to ensure clean energy growth and job creation.

**-Sen. Priya Sundareshan,
Rep. Stephanie Stahl
Hamilton
Water Policy Caucus
Leaders**



Defending DEMOCRACY

A majority of Arizonans have rejected election deniers and chosen to protect our democracy. At the State Legislature, we have been given a mandate by the voters- in partnership with Governor Hobbs - to defend democracy above all else.

Our caucus expects a renewed assault on voting rights based solely on discredited conspiracy theories. This session will likely be used by the Republican majority to further push the "Big Lie" and discredit our electoral process and the hardworking elections officials across Arizona. Democrats will continue defending our election system, which encourages broad participation strengthens our democracy for generations to come.

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We are steadfast in our mission to reject extremism, protect mail-in voting, and repeal roadblocks currently hindering accessible voting for all.

**-Sen. Juan Mendez,
Ranking Member on
Senate Elections**



Equity FOR ALL

Arizona is one of the fastest growing states in America. It is time we invest our resources to ensure every individual has the opportunity to thrive here. The physical, mental, and emotional well-being of all Arizonans can no longer go unnoticed by our state government.

Without a doubt, our caucuses are ready to meet Arizonans where they are, uplift the guidance of experts, and create a better reality for all.

We are dedicated to protecting our LGBTQ+ communities and creating space where every family can grow without threats of violence. Race, religion, and identity should never be cause for government overreach or interpersonal violence. Policy must be a tool for community empowerment and protection - not oppression.

Our caucuses are committed to gender pay equity, finally passing the Equal Rights Amendment, and building a healthcare system that is focused on people not profits. Access to quality healthcare, childcare, and education will set our state up for generations of success.



Public SAFETY



Quality results will require quality legislative proposals with input from stakeholders, directly impacted communities, and law enforcement. Creating safe communities where our children can thrive and families can grow must be our top priority at the legislature.

**-Sen. Anna Hernandez,
Rep. Jennifer Longdon**
Gun Reform Policy Caucus
Leaders



Our caucuses are committed to passing alternatives to mass incarceration for nonviolent offenders and rehabilitation measures that ensure successful reentry to society. Arizona still has one of the highest incarceration rates in the country. Many communities live in fear of unnecessary police violence, exacerbated by poverty and inaccessible healthcare. Public safety encompasses far more than policing, but it is our responsibility to ensure that mutual respect is given to all who encounter law enforcement to sustain safe and prosperous communities.

Democrats will uplift policy that addresses the failed War on Drugs, the gun violence epidemic that is killing our children, the historically high rates of domestic violence, and the ongoing missing and murdered indigenous peoples epidemic. In partnership with the Biden Administration, our caucus will work to expunge all nonviolent marijuana charges.



OUR MEMBERS

House



LD20

Democratic Leader
Andrés Cano



LD22

Asst. Leader
Lupe Contreras



LD8

Whip Melody
Hernandez



LD11

Whip Marcelino
Quiñonez



LD2

Judy Schwiebert



LD4

Laura Terech



LD5

Amish Shah



LD5

Jennifer Longdon



LD6

Myron Tsosie



LD6

Mae Peshlakai



LD8

Athena Salman



LD9

Lorena Austin



LD9

Seth Blattman



LD11

Oscar De Los Santos



LD12

Patty Contreras



LD12

Stacey Travers



LD13

Jennifer Pawlik



LD16

Keith Seaman



LD18

Nancy Gutierrez



LD18

Christopher Mathis



LD20

Alma Hernandez



LD21

Stephanie Stahl Hamilton



LD21

Consuelo Hernandez



LD22

Leezah Sun



LD23

Mariana Sandoval



LD24

Analise Ortiz



LD24

Lydia Hernandez



LD26

Cesar Aguilar



LD26

Flavio Bravo

OUR MEMBERS

Senate



LD26

Democratic Leader
Raquel Terán



LD12

Asst. Leader
Mitzi Epstein



LD5

Caucus Chair
Lela Alston



LD21

Whip
Rosanna Gabaldón



LD4

Christine Marsh



LD6

Theresa Hatathlie



LD8

Juan Mendez



LD9

Eva Burch



LD11

Catherine Miranda



LD18

Priya
Sundareshan



LD20

Sally Ann
Gonzalez



LD22

Eva Diaz



LD23

Brian Fernandez



LD24

Anna Hernandez

Let's get to work.

democratic leadership

