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VOTE TECH SMART



2016

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VOTE TECHSMART

The Vote TechSmart guide is a biennial resource produced by the Arizona Technology Council (AZTC) to give our members a comprehensive review of the Arizona legislative candidates' positions on the key issues affecting the technology industry. Our focus with this guide is on candidates who are running for the state House of Representatives and Senate in Arizona's 2016 election. We are not making endorsements on statewide races or races for U.S. Congress. Please let us know by email at info@aztechcouncil.org if you would like information on these other races.

The guide includes our endorsements based on the incumbents' past voting records on technology industry issues along with information from both a written survey and candidate interviews. AZTC's Public Policy Committee recently interviewed nearly 60 incumbent and non-incumbent candidates over a five-day period, asking important questions on behalf of the technology industry. Based on those responses, as well as the candidate survey that was sent to all legislative office seekers, we submit our recommendations to you.

The Public Policy Committee also drew from some of its recent legislative successes and losses, and the incumbents' role or position on these bills when making candidate endorsements. Ensuring Arizona continues to grow its business-friendly environment remains one of AZTC's top priorities. While AZTC opposes any bill that would have a negative economic impact, it supports legislation that furthers Arizona's mission to become the most business-friendly state.

In addition, AZTC reviewed how each legislator voted on a list of specific bills important to the technology industry then assigned a letter grade of A through F for each lawmaker. The Public Policy Committee reviewed 21 bills from the 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions to determine which legislators showed a commitment to our member industries and member firms' issues. Bills reviewed dealt with the Refundable R&D Tax Credit program, Angel Investment Tax Credit recapitalization, Patent Troll Prevention Act, Joint Technical Education District (JTED) Restoration and Reforms, Exempt Transactions Securities Registration, Data Center Tax Relief, Private Fund Advisers Exemption, Community Colleges Expenditure Limitation, Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) Continuation and many more.



Casting your vote in the upcoming election is critical to protect and advance Arizona as a leading ecosystem for the technology sector's growth. As a member of the Council, you understand the role technology plays in Arizona's economy. It is crucial that we come together as one voice to elect candidates who have a strong and supportive view of the industry.

To help you make your choices among candidates who are seeking office in the Arizona Legislature, the Council publishes this Vote TechSmart resource every two years. The candidates are listed by legislative district. While you can vote for one Senate candidate and two House candidates in each district, the Council only recommends those candidates who support our technology agenda. Therefore, some districts may have fewer or more than three recommendations. If you do not know your legislative district, you can find it by going to capwiz.com/techvoice/az/home.

If you are not currently registered to vote, you can register by going to the Arizona Secretary of State's website at azsos.gov. To stay current on politics and policies affecting the state's technology industry, visit the Advocacy + Public Policy page on the Arizona Technology Council's website at aztechcouncil.org/promoting-public-policy.

2016 ENDORSEMENTS

• Legislative District 1

State Senate: **Karen Fann (R)** is currently a member of the House of Representatives and is running for an open seat in the Senate. She has been a consistent champion of the Arizona Technology Council and was the prime sponsor of the Governor's ACA 2.0 bill.

House of Representatives: **Noel Campbell (R)** is finishing his first term in the House. A Republican from Prescott, he has proven to be thoughtful in his approach and open to economic development ideas.

• Legislative District 2

State Senate: **Andrea Dalessandro (D)** represents southern Arizona and has fought to protect its aerospace and defense assets. Her voting record shows support of the Council priorities.

House of Representatives: **J. Christopher Ackerley (R)** during his first term has shown himself to be a moderate Republican. Ackerley is thoughtful in his approach and isn't afraid to stand up for what he believes in. His voting record shows he understands and supports issues of interest to the Council.

Rosanna Gabaldon (D) has a voting record that supported the technology industry in Arizona. She has been supportive of the Angel Investment Tax Credit program.

• Legislative District 3

State Senate: **Olivia Cajero Bedford (D)** has been a supporter of the Council during her numerous years as an Arizona legislator. This past session, she even co-sponsored the ACA continuation bill and fought for its passage.

House of Representatives: **Macario Saldate (D)** is a legislator from southern Arizona who, in his second term, continued to support the Council agenda. He is a prolific bill sponsor, including co-sponsoring a bill to restore JTED funding.

• Legislative District 4

State Senate: **Lisa Otondo (D)** is currently a member of the House running for an open seat in the Senate. In her first term, she established herself as a friend of the Council and continued that in her second term, including co-sponsoring a bill to recreate the Job Training Fund.

House of Representatives: **Charlene Fernandez (D)** is a strong supporter of K-12 teachers and of public schools, and she believes Proposition 123 was a good first step. Fernandez advocates for and emphasizes 21st century skills such as science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), and the need for Career and Technical Education, and College and Career Ready Standards. Additionally, she supports tax incentives for angel investment and R&D.

• Legislative District 5

State Senate: **Sonny Borrelli (R)** is a big supporter of economic development issues, particularly in rural Arizona and including the Angel Investment Tax Credit. He was the co-sponsor of three bills on the Council agenda during his time in the Arizona House of Representatives and is currently running for a seat in the state Senate.

House of Representatives: **Regina Cobb (R)** has proven herself to be a rising star in her first term, even being honored as such by the *Arizona Capitol Times*. Cobb has already proven to be a strong advocate for the Council and is willing to stand up for what she believes.

Sam Medrano (R) understands the importance of the innovation economy. As a former math and science teacher, he also appreciates how incredibly important science, technology, engineering and math are in supporting the innovation economy. Medrano is a strong believer in the success of the Angel Investment Tax Credit.

• Legislative District 6

State Senate: No endorsements.

House of Representative: **Bob Thorpe (R)** has been very helpful to the Council. As a Northern Arizona Representative, he has been a leader and vocal advocate for the Angel Investment Tax Credit and has been a long-time supporter of the Council's initiatives.

• Legislative District 7

State Senate / House of Representatives: No endorsements.

• Legislative District 8

State Senate: **Barbara McGuire (D)** is a positive voice for technology companies in rural Arizona. In her four years in the Legislature, she has a near perfect record in voting on Council issues.

Frank Pratt (R) is currently a member of the House and now running for the Senate. He has proven to be a continuous supporter of technology issues, particularly those involving energy since he has been the Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee chairman.

House of Representatives: **David Cook (R)** comes from an agricultural/ranching background and understands the need to diversify our economy with more technology-based jobs because of the impact on all industries.

T.J. Shope (R) has been one of the most consistent and dependable supporters of Council issues. A staunch supporter of the Angel Investment Tax Credit, his record of supporting technology issues is near perfect.

- **Legislative District 9**

State Senate: **Steve Farley (D)** is a vocal and effective advocate and leader for technology issues. He has worked across party lines to help improve the business environment in Arizona, including eliminating additional red tape for venture capitalists and working to restore the Job Training Fund.

House of Representatives: **Randall Friese (D)** is an outspoken and influential leader in the House Democratic caucus. In his first term, he has shown support for technology issues and education-driven economic development.

Matt Kopec (D) was appointed to fill a vacant seat and as such is finishing his first year in office. Although a small sample size, his record of voting for Council agenda items is excellent. One of his top priorities for his next term is to ensure Arizona has a well-qualified workforce to help attract businesses and to keep our graduates employed here.

- **Legislative District 10**

State Senate: **David Bradley (D)** is a strong advocate for the Council and the Tucson technology sector. Ensuring a good education and opportunities for Arizona's children is of the utmost importance to him and he helps lead that charge in his caucus at the Legislature.

House of Representatives: **Todd Clodfelter (R)** is a small business owner who understands that Arizona needs to continue to promote an environment that attracts and grows businesses while reducing regulation and encouraging innovation. He has expressed support for the Angel Investment Tax Credit program as one of the tools to help spur innovation.

Courtney Frogge (D) is a strong supporter of a high performing public education system. She would be an ardent supporter of the Refundable R&D Tax Credit and the Angel Investment Tax Credit.

Stefanie Mach (D) has been extremely supportive of the efforts to recapitalize the Angel Investment Tax Credit and the Research & Development Tax Credit. During her tenure at the Legislature, she has proven to be a thoughtful legislator who supports the needs of the technology community and is passionate about her priorities.

- **Legislative District 11**

State Senate: **Steve Smith (R)** is the chairman of the Senate Public Safety, Military and Technology Committee, and has helped advance initiatives important to the Council. He co-sponsored a bill creating Career and Technical Education teaching certificates to help address the shortage of teachers in these fields, as well as worked to reduce regulatory burdens businesses face.

House of Representatives: No endorsements.

- **Legislative District 12**

State Senate: **Warren Petersen (R)** is currently a member of the House running for an open seat in the Senate. He fights hard for business interests, particularly small or startup businesses, and leads the charge to get government out of the way and reduce/eliminate regulatory burdens.

House of Representatives: **LaCinda Lewis (R)** understands the importance of the connection between education and the economy. She wants to work to improve education in Arizona, resulting in a skilled and educated workforce to help attract and grow businesses in Arizona.

- **Legislative District 13**

State Senate: **Diane Landis (R)** is a proponent of economic development programs that work and provide support to Arizona entrepreneurs and businesses. Additionally, she believes having an educated workforce will entice more technology companies to relocate to Arizona.

House of Representatives: **Darin Mitchell (R)** has a proven record of trying to make Arizona more attractive as a place for businesses to relocate and grow. As the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, he has worked to reduce regulatory burdens on businesses and create a tax environment where businesses can flourish.

Don Shooter (R) is currently the Appropriations Committee chairman in the Senate and is now running for an open seat in the House. He works very hard and effectively — often behind the scenes — and has a record of voting for Council issues that is virtually unparalleled. He is a staunch supporter of the Angel Investment Tax Credit.

- **Legislative District 14**

State Senate: No endorsements.

House of Representatives: **Drew John (R)** has a diverse business background, and knows how hard starting and running a business can be — all while still serving his community as a school board member then a county supervisor.. Transportation infrastructure issues are of great concern to him and he has expressed support for initiatives for Refundable R&D and Angel Investment Tax Credit programs.

Anthony Sizer (R) is dedicated to economic growth and job creation in Arizona. He is a member of Gov. Doug Ducey's business leadership group called the Arizona Zanjeros, which works to bring businesses the state. He is also committed to current employers having the proper environment to grow and succeed. He has expressed early support to the Angel Investment Tax Credit program and other incentives like it.

- **Legislative District 15**

State Senate: No endorsements

House of Representatives: **Heather Carter (R)** is one of the most effective, organized and supportive members of the Legislature. She continues to show strong support for the Council agenda, as evidenced by her perfect voting record.

- **Legislative District 16**

State Senate: **David Farnsworth (R)** has been the sponsor of a few key bills over the last few years and has been a supporter of many of the Council issues. He sponsored the bill that provided a small fund adviser exemption that had been previously eliminated by the Dodd-Frank Act.

House of Representatives: **Doug Coleman (R)** continues to be one of the Council's best allies. His approach to issues is reasonable and sensible, and he provides a calming source of support for our issues.

- **Legislative District 17**

State Senate: **Steve Yarbrough (R)** is the incoming Senate President for 2017 and 2018. As the Senate majority leader and previous Senate Finance Committee chair, he has been open and fair when analyzing issues. He is committed to education and reducing regulatory burdens for businesses.

House of Representatives: **J.D. Mesnard (R)** has focused on tax reform and easing burdens on business during his tenure as a legislator. His common sense, calm approach to issues is one of his many good leadership qualities and his voting record shows him to be a friend to business and committed to economic growth.

Jeff Weninger (R) is finishing his first term in the Legislature and has proven to be a champion for economic development. As a small business owner himself, he understands the roadblocks businesses can face and has worked to reduce them, evident through his sponsorship of the Crowdfunding Bill and others like it. He plans to continue to focus his attention on economic development issues and has been one of the Council's strongest supporters.

- **Legislative District 18**

State Senate: **Jeff Dial (R)** has been and continues to be one of the champions of the Council and its agenda. He has one of the strongest voting records on technology issues and has fought for the programs in the budget, as well as for increased K-12 education and university funding to ensure a skilled workforce for Arizona businesses.

House of Representatives: **Jill Norgaard (R)** was voted the Top Rising Star by the *Arizona Capitol Times*. She has proven to be a hard worker and a future leader. She has supported technology issues, as well as focused on improving education funding formulas.

Bob Robson (R) has been in the Legislature for 12 years and has been an advocate for the technology and economic development community the entire time. He has a proven track record of going out on a limb to move forward those issues friendly to our agenda.

- **Legislative District 19**

State Senate: **Lupe Contreras (D)** has focused two terms on improving education in Arizona. He understands the need to create an educated and skilled workforce, and the impact that has on Arizona businesses and our economy. He has been a strong leader in his caucus.

House of Representatives: **Mark Cardenas (D)** has been a strong supporter of and advocate for Council issues in his two terms. He has helped educate members of his caucus on the importance of technology issues and the benefits that sector brings to Arizona.

Diego Espinoza (D) is a small business owner who understands the challenges businesses face and works to ensure a business-friendly environment but also focuses on education. During this, his first term, he was the prime sponsor of a bill restoring JTED funding.

- **Legislative District 20**

State Senate: **Kimberly Yee (R)** is a staunch supporter of several Council issues, including the Angel Investment Tax Credit program. She has sponsored several bills addressing the shortage of teachers in STEM areas, as well as providing a pathway for teacher certification for CTE programs. As the incoming majority leader in the Senate, her of the technology industry and STEM education will be a great resource for her caucus.

House of Representatives: **Paul Boyer (R)**, with a laser focus on improving education outcomes, has proven an understanding of the need to create a quality workforce. This is evidenced by his successful efforts to restore JTED funding and stop education bills that would have a detrimental effect on Arizona's education system.

Anthony Kern (R) is in his first term and has shown a keen interest in shrinking the size of government and paving the way for business to thrive. Though he would like to simplify the entire tax code and eliminate the income tax altogether, he does support incentive programs that help spur economic growth.

- **Legislative District 21**

State Senate: No endorsements.

House of Representatives: **Kevin Payne (R)** has a technology background and is a small business owner. He wants to focus on growing the economy by supporting small businesses through less regulation and incentive programs that have proven return on investments, as well as the needed transportation infrastructure to move goods around and out of the state.

- **Legislative District 22**

State Senate: No endorsements.

House of Representatives: **David Livingston (R)** is a tireless advocate for getting government out of the way for business. During the last four years, he has a solid record of voting for Council agenda items.

Phil Lovas (R) has been a solid supporter of business and economic development issues. A measured and inclusive approach to issues is his strong suit.

- **Legislative District 23**

State Senate: **John Kavanagh (R)** has proven to be a legislative leader and persuasive debater. He is an influential member of the Appropriations Committee and has also endorsed issues by the Council.

House of Representatives: **Jay Lawrence (R)** is finishing his first term in the Legislature and has proven himself to be a friend of the technology industry. He wants to ensure Arizona has the right environment to attract and grow businesses.

- **Legislative District 24**

State Senate: **Katie Hobbs (D)** is the minority leader in the Senate and has been a great supporter of the technology industry throughout the state. She has a proven record of support, as well as helps advocate for the issues within her caucus.

House of Representatives: **Lela Alston (D)** has spent many years in the Legislature and her experience has helped her garner the respect of members on both sides of the aisle. She focuses much of her time on education initiatives to help prepare a technology-ready workforce. She has been a solid supporter of technology issues as well.

Ken Clark (D) has been a supporter of the R&D Tax Credit, the Angel Investment Tax Credit and venture capital initiatives. He is also a respected leader in his caucus when it comes to energy issues and his record has proven him to be a friend of the Council.

- **Legislative District 25**

State Senate: **Bob Worsley (R)** is a strong supporter of the technology industry, with an impressive background in innovation and entrepreneurship. He understands the value of technology in a modern economy and advocates for advancement in all sectors.

House of Representatives: No endorsements.

- **Legislative District 26**

State Senate: **David Lucier (D)** has been advocating for veterans in Arizona for years, including working with the universities to come up with creative ideas on making the university system more veteran-friendly. He understands the importance of education, job training and economic development that will serve his district well.

House of Representatives: **Michael Martinez (D)** wants to work across party lines to continue to improve education in Arizona, focusing on the funding formula, as well as school capital and infrastructure maintenance. He supports the Angel Investment program and wants to utilize advancements in technology to help Arizona become more sustainable in terms of energy and water.

Celeste Plumlee (D) is the newest member of the Legislature after being appointed to fill a vacant seat in November 2015. While still getting her feet wet, she has shown a willingness to commit state resources to economic development, education and Arizona families.

- **Legislative District 27**

State Senate: **Catherine Miranda (D)**, during the past two years has made a concerted effort to become a friend of business. She has worked with other business-friendly Democrats and helped support initiatives that are important to the technology and business community.

House of Representatives: **Reginald Bolding Jr. (D)** believes that Arizona benefits from proven economic development incentive programs. In his first term, he was the prime sponsor of an effort to restore the Job Training Fund and has supported several key initiatives important to the Council.

Rebecca Rios (D) is a long-term legislator who has focused much of her attention on the well-being of children, including education. As a member of the House minority caucus leadership team, she is influential in convincing others that economic development incentives work and to back policies that support the technology and business communities.

- **Legislative District 28**

State Senate: **Kate Brophy McGee (R)** is currently in the House and running for an open seat in the Senate. She is one of the most solid supporters of technology issues, especially the Angel Investment Tax Credit program. She is a hard worker dedicated to serving her community and often part of an influential team of legislators who support the technology industry and education initiatives.

Eric Meyer (D) is the minority leader in the House and running for the Senate. He has been instrumental in having key economic development programs, such as Angel Investment and Refundable R&D Tax Credit programs, included in the Democrat policy agenda. He has helped his caucus understand the importance of incentivizing investment and has a solid record of supporting the technology industry.

House of Representatives: **Kelli Butler (D)** is committed to education at all levels. She is committed to trying to get funding to address the teacher shortage, more funding for STEM programs, better access to universities and community colleges, and early childhood development. She is also supportive of economic development tools that incentivize investment, enable startups and support expansion.

Mary Hamway (R) supports policies that are consistent with growing and diversifying the economy while reducing the cost of doing business in Arizona. She has expressed support for economic development incentive programs such as the Angel Investment program, as well as wants to focus on education funding issues.

Matt Morales (R) has been around the legislative process for years, as well as technology in almost every job he has had, including his role as a chief information officer. His understanding of economic development drivers, innovation and technology gives him great insight into how Arizona can better serve the business community and technology industry.

- **Legislative District 29**

State Senate: **Martin Quezada (D)** is one of the minority whips in the Senate and has turned much of his attention to voting issues and helping to ensure that Arizona elections are fair and open. He has a strong record of supporting issues important to the technology industry.

House of Representatives: **Richard Andrade (D)** is completing his first term as a legislator and has a background in aerospace and defense. He is a strong voice for veterans and understands the need for strong transportation infrastructure to support a growing economy. His record proves he has helped to pass several important technology initiatives.

- **Legislative District 30**

State Senate: **Robert Meza (D)** is one of the most staunch and effective supporters of Council issues. As a business-friendly Democrat, he works hard to help create an environment where entrepreneurs can start and grow a successful business.

House of Representatives: **Jonathan Larkin (D)** continues to be a friend of the Council. His strong voting record includes support for the Angel Investment Tax Credit program, JTED restoration and many other technology issues.

Ray Martinez (D) is deeply focused on improving economic and education opportunities in his community and across the state. He strongly supports incentives and policies that will expand the technology sector in order to diversify Arizona's economy and add high-paying jobs.

With the 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions behind us, the Arizona Technology Council reflected on how state legislators voted on initiatives critical to our mission and its members. With support from both parties, the Council was able to make strides that moved the legislative agenda forward.

A couple of key successes in the 2016 session were HB2386, the Patent Troll Prevention Act, and SB1005 titled Private Fund Advisers Exemption. The passage of both bills provided strong examples of Arizona legislators recognizing the importance of the technology industry. The Public Policy Committee and Council staff work with legislators, elected officials and policy makers at all levels of government to educate them on the value and promise of technology, leading to the following:

1. In a bid to reverse slashed funding of the state's Joint Technical Education Districts, the Senate and House each came up with bills to restore funding for the programs credited with giving high school students early exposure to much needed careers, such as in information technology. Legislators expressed concerns about the previous cuts as they began negotiations to frame the restoration and create transparency and reporting requirements. After the legislation was approved by the Legislature, it quickly was signed into law.
2. Most states had exemptions in their statutes for venture capital firm managers with 15 or fewer clients based on federal law and had to adopt new exemptions after the Dodd-Frank Act was enacted. Arizona did not update its statutes to avoid registration, putting the state at a disadvantage when trying to attract venture capital funds to our state. Under a Senate bill, the Dodd-Frank Small Fund Adviser Exemption was passed. Starting Sept. 1, a private fund investment adviser will not be required to be licensed in Arizona or make a notice filing if the adviser meets specific conditions.

The Public Policy Committee reviewed the voting records of incumbents to determine whether they have provided ongoing support to the technology agenda, including expanding access to investment capital, supporting tax policy to incent research and development investments, technology-based economic development, advocating for enhanced technology infrastructure, and a strong commitment to improving our public education system from kindergarten through postsecondary with technology-based and blended learning.

TECH HOT, TECH NOT

The Council Names Legislators Who Made the Grade as Supporters of Arizona's Technology Agenda in the 2015 and 2016 Sessions

Incumbents' Letter Grades

The senators and representatives listed below are incumbents who are running for reelection or a seat in a different chamber. They are graded on their voting histories.

'A' LEGISLATORS

Sen. Olivia Cajero Bedford	Rep. J. Christopher Ackerley
Sen. Carlyle Begay	Rep. Reginald Bolding Jr.
Sen. David Bradley	Rep. Mark A. Cardenas
Sen. Lupe Contreras	Rep. Heather Carter
Sen. Andrea Dalessandro	Rep. Regina Cobb
Sen. Jeff Dial	Rep. Doug Coleman
Sen. Adam Driggs	Rep. Diego Espinoza
Sen. Barbara McGuire	Rep. Karen Fann
Sen. Robert Meza	Rep. David M. Gowan Sr.
Sen. Catherine Miranda	Rep. Kate Brophy McGee
Sen. Lynne Pancrazi	Rep. Eric Meyer
Sen. Steve Pierce	Rep. Bob Robson
Sen. Martin Quezada	Rep. Thomas "T.J." Shope
Sen. Andrew C. Sherwood	Rep. David W. Stevens
Sen. Don Shooter	Rep. Bob Thorpe
Sen. Bob Worsley	Rep. Jeff Weninger
Sen. Kimberly Yee	

'C' LEGISLATORS

Sen. Sylvia Allen	Rep. Russell "Rusty" Bowers
Sen. Nancy Barto	Rep. Mark Finchem
Sen. Andy Biggs	Rep. Sally Ann Gonzales
Sen. Judy Burges	Rep. Juan Jose Mendez
Sen. Gail Griffin	Rep. Vince Leach
Sen. Debbie Lesko	Rep. Justin Olson
	Rep. Tony Rivero
Rep. John M. Allen	Rep. Kelly Townsend
Rep. Brenda Barton	Rep. Michelle Ugenti-Rita

'B' LEGISLATORS

Sen. Susan Donahue	Rep. Katie Hobbs
Sen. Steve Farley	Rep. Anthony Kern
Sen. David C. Farnsworth	Rep. Matthew A. Kopec
Sen. John Kavanagh	Rep. Jonathan R. Larkin
Sen. Steve Smith	Rep. Jay Lawrence
Sen. Steve Yarbrough	Rep. David Livingston
	Rep. Phil Lovas
Rep. Richard C. Andrade	Rep. Stefanie Mach
Rep. Lela Alston	Rep. Javan D. "J.D." Mesnard
Rep. Jennifer D. Benally	Rep. Darin Mitchell
Rep. Sonny Borrelli	Rep. Jill Norgaard
Rep. Paul Boyer	Rep. Lisa A. Otondo
Rep. Noel W. Campbell	Rep. Warren H. Petersen
Rep. Ken Clark	Rep. Celeste Plumlee
Rep. Debbie McCune Davis	Rep. Franklin M. Pratt
Rep. Charlene R. Fernandez	Rep. Rebecca Rios
Rep. Randall Friese	Rep. Macario Saldate
Rep. Rosanna Gabaldón	Rep. Ceci Velasquez
Rep. Rick Gray	Rep. Bruce Wheeler
Rep. Albert Hale	

'D' LEGISLATORS

Rep. Steve Montenegro
Rep. Eddie Farnsworth



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I would like to thank the Arizona Technology Council's Public Policy Committee, whose members who helped develop this 2016 Vote TechSmart guide. For questions regarding this guide or the Arizona Technology Council, please contact Council President + CEO Steven G. Zylstra by phone at 602.422.9447 or by email at **szylstra@aztechcouncil.org**.

As an advocate for technology companies in Arizona, the Council continuously monitors federal, state and local policies that impact the growth of Arizona's technology industry. With the strength of almost 800 member companies, the Council informs and educates policy makers on issues that are important to Arizona's technology community.

The Public Policy Committee focuses on issues and initiatives that accelerate technology-related public policy and legislation in Arizona affecting the growth and development of the technology industry. The targeted initiatives focused on five areas encompass the work of this Committee: tax policy; technology commercialization and development; workforce development; supply-chain development; and capital formation. This Committee, along with Council staff, work with legislators, elected officials and policy makers at all levels of government, to educate them on the value and promise of the technology industry. For more information on getting involved with this Committee, **rschott@aztechcouncil.org**.