



ARIZONA
TECHNOLOGY
COUNCIL
a place to connect and grow



2020

Vote TechSmart

AZTECHCOUNCIL.ORG



Vote TechSmart



The Vote TechSmart guide is a biennial resource produced by the Arizona Technology Council to provide its members a comprehensive review of Arizona legislative candidates' positions on key issues affecting the technology industry. The guide focuses on candidates running for the state House of Representatives and Senate in the 2020 elections. The Council is not making endorsements on statewide or congressional races.

The guide includes endorsements based on the incumbents' past voting records on technology industry issues along with information from both a written survey and candidate interviews.

To determine the endorsements, the Council's Public Policy Committee drew from some of its recent legislative successes and losses along with the incumbent's role or position on these bills. Ensuring Arizona continues to grow its business-friendly environment remains one of the Council's top priorities. While the Council opposes any bill potentially having a negative economic impact, it supports legislation that furthers Arizona's mission to become the fastest-growing tech hub in the nation.

The Public Policy Committee interviewed more than 50 incumbent and non-incumbent candidates during a two-week period, asking important questions on behalf of the technology industry. In addition, the Public Policy Committee reviewed how each legislator voted on a list of specific bills important to the technology industry then assigned a letter grade for each lawmaker. The committee selected 13 bills from the 2019 and 2020 legislative sessions to determine which legislators showed a commitment to the Council member industries and issues. Those bills dealt with the Research and Development (R&D) Tax Credit program extension; Angel Investment Tax Credit program extension; science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education; and many other topics. After weighing the records, as well as responses in the interviews and survey sent to all legislative office seekers, we announce our recommendations to you.

To help you make your choices among candidates seeking office in the Arizona Legislature, candidates appearing in the Vote TechSmart guide are listed by legislative district. While you can vote for one Senate candidate and two House candidates in your legislative district, the Council only recommends those candidates who support its technology agenda. Therefore, some districts may have fewer or more than three recommendations. If you do not know the elected officials serving your district, you can find them by going to www.azleg.gov/findmylegislator.

If you are not registered to vote, you can do so by going to the Arizona Secretary of State's website at <https://azsos.gov>. To stay current on politics and policies affecting the state's technology industry, visit the Council's Policy + Advocacy webpage at www.aztechcouncil.org/public-policy.

Casting your vote in the upcoming election is critical to protecting and advancing Arizona as a leading ecosystem for the technology sector's growth. As an integral part of the Council, members understand the role technology plays in the state's economy. It is crucial to come together as one voice to elect candidates who have strong and supportive views of the technology industry.



ARIZONA TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL 2020 ENDORSEMENTS

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 1

State Senate: Karen Fann (R) has been a champion of the technology industry during her entire tenure as a legislator. She has been key in getting the Small Business Capital Investment Incentive—also known as the Angel Investment Tax Credit—recapitalized and has been a strong advocate in getting the program extended. She supports creating an environment in Arizona where the technology industry can grow and thrive.

House of Representatives: Selina Bliss (R) is running for one of the open seats in the House. With her passion for strategic investments in Arizona that show the right returns on investment, such as workforce development programs and STEM education, she would be a welcome addition.

House of Representatives: Steven Sensmeier (R) is another candidate running for one of the open seats in the House. He is a strong supporter of common-sense solutions to business and workforce development issues. He also advocates STEM education and entrepreneurship opportunities. He would support a business-friendly environment in which the technology industry could thrive.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 2

State Senate: Rosanna Gabaldón (D) has served four terms in the House and is now running for the Senate. During her tenure, she has shown support for key Council initiatives. In her recent term, she was shown to be a leader in Arizona's water discussions.

House of Representatives: Daniel Hernandez (D) has proven to be a pragmatic legislator during his two terms. He understands the importance of having a business-friendly environment to attract and grow technology companies that bring high-paying, high-quality jobs to the state. He is also a leader in the fight for non-discrimination and equality to make Arizona an inclusive environment for people to live, work and play.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 3

House of Representatives: Alma Hernandez (D) proved during her first term in the Legislature that she truly looks at the merits of legislation and fights to do what is right for her district and the state. Her bipartisan approach and commitment to ensuring her constituents have high-quality jobs with high-quality, affordable health care options have proven her to be a friend of the technology community.

House of Representatives: Andrés Cano (D) showed during his first term that he is able to work across the aisle on key initiatives that benefit his district. Although he is one of the more progressive legislators, he has been supportive of key economic development incentives that have proven results and increased investment in the community he serves.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 4

State Senate: Lisa Otondo (D) is a passionate legislator and a strong advocate for public education. Always willing to hear every side, she has shown to be a great leader of her caucus. During her tenure, she has shown that her priorities frequently align with the Council's and has supported key legislative priorities.

House of Representatives: No endorsements.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 5

State Senate: Sonny Borrelli (R) is the current Senate Majority Whip. He has worked closely with the Council over the years and supported policies that have helped Arizona become more attractive for the technology industry. He works hard to bring economic development opportunities to the state, especially in rural areas.

House of Representatives: Regina Cobb (R) is a proven champion of the technology industry and business community. She has led the charge on many economic development issues. As the Appropriations chairwoman in the most recent term, she worked to ensure funding for successful programs was continued. She has been one of the key legislators in recapitalizing and advocating the extension of the Angel Investment tax credit.

House of Representatives: Leo Biasiucci (R) is a young, enthusiastic legislator who showed during his first term that he is willing to work across the aisle to get things done. He has run legislation to update old government processes to utilize technological advancements. He has a strong record of support for the technology agenda.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 6

State Senate: Sylvia Allen (R) has been committed to education during her tenure in the Legislature and currently serves as chair of the Senate Education Committee. She has advocated for a sustainable funding stream for Arizona's education system, including kindergarten through postsecondary education, and proposed increasing the state sales tax to a full penny to support education funding. She also has fought for career and technical education (CTE) and special-education funding.

House of Representatives: Walt Blackman (R) is running for reelection to his second term in the House. During his first term, he has proven to be someone who is willing to listen. He has supported economic development incentives shown to produce a good return on investment for Arizona taxpayers and has sponsored legislation to restore fourth-year funding for CTE. Criminal justice reform has also been one of his top priorities since being elected.

House of Representatives: Art Babbott (I) seeks to be a problem solver in the Legislature and is unwilling to accept partisan dysfunction. He wants to make sure new and existing businesses have access to startup and bridge capital, and favors business incentives for job training and apprenticeship opportunities. He also supports early childhood education and STEM education and will advocate increases in STEM-related funding.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 7

State Senate: Jamescita Peshlakai (D) is a reasonable Democratic voice in the Senate and a strong advocate for economic development on tribal nations. Generally supportive of the Council's agenda, she can be counted on to give reasoned and thoughtful consideration to its issues.

House of Representatives: Arlando Teller (D) is a strong voice for the tribal nations. During his first term, he has been a strong supporter of bringing economic development and educational opportunities to his district. He has supported key technology policies and consistently advocates for aviation-related funding.

House of Representatives: Myron Tsosie (D) is a strong advocate for tribal nations, and a strong supporter of education and economic development. His quiet and measured approach to the Legislature has shown him to be thoughtful, as well as generally supportive of the Council's agenda.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 8

State Senate: T.J. Shope (R) is a strong supporter of technology sector issues, especially when innovative companies bring jobs to rural Arizona. During his tenure in the House, he has proven to be a level-headed leader with a willingness to work to continue improving the business environment in Arizona while reaching across the aisle to get his initiatives accomplished.

House of Representatives: David Cook (R) is a strong advocate for the needs of rural Arizona. During his time in the House, he has been a supporter of education, especially STEM in rural Arizona, workforce development and other critical issues such as water. He has been a supporter of key Council priorities and has advocated more economic development programs and resources for rural Arizona.

House of Representatives: Frank Pratt (R) has been a longtime supporter of technology policies that have helped Arizona become an attractive place for technology companies to operate. During his tenure, he has been instrumental in keeping from advancing legislation that would be detrimental to the advancement of Arizona's education system.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 9

State Senate: Victoria Steele (D) is a strong supporter of economic development, equal rights and education. She is a principled legislator who strives to do what she believes is right for her constituents and the state. She has supported many policies impacting the technology industry.

House of Representatives: Randall Frieze (D) has shown himself to be a thoughtful leader in his caucus and a good advocate for southern Arizona. He understands the importance of improving the environment for companies to do business in the state, especially in the technology industry with its high-paying jobs that in turn increase the revenue available to help fund education.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 10

State Senate: Kirsten Engel (D) is a rational legislator who does her research on the issues in front of her. She is passionate about the environmental issues facing Arizona. She's also a strong supporter of education, and criminal justice reform, and looks forward to finding workable solutions to Arizona's most pressing issues.

House of Representatives: Domingo DeGrazia (D) has relied on his legal expertise and fact-based, decision-making during his first term. He has a background in technology and supports encouraging investments in Arizona startups, educational programs at the intersection of technology and entrepreneurship, and incorporating Arizona innovation into all levels of government.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 11

State Senate: Vince Leach (R) has a thoughtful approach to how he legislates. During his time in the Legislature, he has strived to protect the taxpayer and worked to ensure Arizona has a business landscape ripe for economic development. Although not a fan of many targeted tax incentives, he is always open to listening and has been a supporter of the business community.

House of Representatives: Mark Finchem (R) is an outspoken legislator who will not back down from a fight. He has a focus on energy, recyclables and economic development. He been an advocate for reducing the regulatory burden where he can and a supporter of the technology agenda.

House of Representatives: Bret Roberts (R) is running for reelection to serve a second term in the House. He has shown a vast understanding of how workforce development, criminal justice reform and tax policy play in economic development. He has supported many of the Council's priorities.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 12

State Senate: No endorsements.

House of Representatives: No endorsements.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 13

State Senate: Sine Kerr (R) has proven to be a thoughtful legislator who is truly open to listening and learning about the issues. As a family business owner, she understands the importance of government not creating roadblocks or burdensome regulations. She has been very supportive of initiatives that have advanced the technology agenda, including helping to champion the extension of key economic development programs in the most recent session.

House of Representatives: Tim Dunn (R) has shown to be a legislator who understands the balance of rural and urban communities in the overall economic landscape. He has a passion for economic development and sensible tax policy, and has been a supporter of the technology industry's initiatives since he took office.

House of Representatives: Joanne Osborne (R) is a small business owner who truly understands how policies can affect businesses in the state. During her first term, she has shown to be a thoughtful legislator, has supported the Council's key initiatives, and has worked to keep Arizona business-friendly.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 14

State Senate: David Gowan (R) has always been an advocate for a balanced budget complete with the needed incentives to attract and retain both businesses and their needed workforce. He has taken a thoughtful approach to his position as Appropriations chair and was instrumental in extending the R&D tax credit at the current levels for an additional 10 years, as well as extending other key economic development tools essential to the growth of the technology industry in the most recent legislative session.

House of Representatives: Gail Griffin (R) is a great voice for rural Arizona. As chair of the Natural Resources, Energy & Water Committee, her caucus has looked to her as a leader on water and many rural issues. She has supported many policies that have helped keep Arizona a business-friendly environment.

House of Representatives: Becky Ann Nutt (R) is another great voice in leadership for rural Arizona. She is a fierce advocate for STEM investments and helped the Council craft its STEM initiative in the most recent session. She has always shown strong support for economic development programs and the technology agenda as a whole.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 15

State Senate: Heather Carter (R) is the incumbent senator from District 15. During her tenure, she has been honored almost every year by the Council at the Governor's Celebration of Innovation for her tireless advocacy on issues of importance to the technology and business community. She is recognized as an expert and leader in the areas of health care, education and public safety. She brings a level-headed sensible approach to policy issues at the Capitol.

House of Representatives: Jarrett Hamstreet (R) truly understands the challenges that technology startups and companies face as a technology entrepreneur himself. He is running to maintain a tax and regulatory environment that will allow companies to flourish in Arizona. He wants to champion long-term investment policies that will pay dividends to Arizona's economy for decades to come.

House of Representatives: Steve Kaiser (R) is running for one of the open seats in the House. He is a small business owner who understands the challenges many companies face. He is passionate about investing in education, community colleges and dual enrollment programs, and understands the role those priorities play in attracting businesses. His priorities align well with the business and technology communities.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 16

State Senate: No endorsements.

House of Representatives: Lisa Godzich (R) is running for the open seat in the House. She is very high energy and committed to focusing on the economy, workforce development and making Arizona a great place to do business.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 17

State Senate: J.D. Mesnard (R) takes a measured approach to legislation. He supports reducing the size of government and a simplified tax code over more targeted tax incentives. He has also been a leading voice on the need to fund fourth-year CTE programs in order to address the workforce needs of Arizona's growing economy.

House of Representatives: Jeff Weninger (R) is one of the strongest advocates for the technology industry in the Legislature. He works tirelessly to ensure Arizona is welcoming to innovative businesses, and to keep the overall business climate friendly with fewer regulations and roadblocks for entrepreneurs to face while starting and operating in Arizona.

House of Representatives: Jennifer Pawlik (D) has shown herself to be a thoughtful and good addition to the Legislature during her first term. She has a passion for education and ensuring schools have the necessary funding and ability to educate Arizona's students. Additionally, she supported measures to help economic development in her district and ensure her constituents will have more options for quality and affordable health care.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 18

State Senate: Sean Bowie (D) has been a champion for the technology industry since his first election. He has helped advance initiatives crucial for Arizona's becoming a technology hub. His support of innovative and proven economic development programs, and his commitment to workforce development, community colleges and education as a whole have helped the technology and business community in Arizona.

House of Representatives: Jennifer Jermaine (D) has shown during her first term to truly understand the challenges the technology industry and startups face here in Arizona, especially through her involvement in the #yesphx community. She has been a strong supporter of policies that help further the overall technology agenda.

House of Representatives: Bob Robson (R) is a former legislator who is looking to return to serve his district in the House. He has a history of being bipartisan and working hard behind the scenes to get things done. He has championed many key higher education and capital investment initiatives in the past and wants to return to continue his work in these areas to continue to grow Arizona's economy.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 19

State Senate: Lupe Contreras (D) has been a strong leader in his caucus for many years. He is a great advocate for education, business and his constituency. He works hard to ensure every voice is heard and has long been a supporter of the technology agenda, working to ensure issues are judged based on the merits of the programs instead of just politics.

House of Representatives: Diego Espinoza (D) has shown great leadership over the years. As a small business owner, he understands the effects of regulation and taxation. He always takes a balanced approach when crafting and voting on legislation and has supported key policies that have helped the technology industry flourish over the years.

House of Representatives: Lorenzo Sierra (D) has just finished his first term and is seeking reelection in the House. Hitting the ground running, he has proven to be quite the advocate for his community. Much like his seatmates, he takes a balanced approach and has supported the Council's agenda. Bringing economic development opportunities to his community is a large driver for him, especially through supporting women- and minority-owned businesses.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 20

State Senate: Paul Boyer (R) has proven that he is willing fight for a cause, even if it requires him to go against his own party. He is a strong voice for Arizona's children, public education and economic development, and strives to move Arizona forward. Although he doesn't support a lot of economic development incentives, he supports creating an environment attractive to business, including strengthening the public education system and preparing Arizona's students to enter the workforce.

State Senate: Douglas Ervin (D) is running with education as his main focus. STEM, CTE and workforce development programs are all areas he hopes to be able to focus on if elected. He believes that smart investments in both education and measurable economic development programs can lead to long-term benefits for the citizens and businesses of Arizona.

House of Representatives: No endorsements.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 21

State Senate: Rick Gray (R) has long been a supporter of policies that have supported Arizona's technology industry. He has a pragmatic and thoughtful leadership style and approach to looking at legislation. He supports streamlining processes that businesses encounter when dealing with government.

House of Representatives: Kevin Payne (R) has proven himself to be a strong voice for small business. As a small business owner, he understands what the industry needs from government and, more importantly, what the industry doesn't need. He has worked to reduce burdensome regulations and has a history of supporting the technology agenda.

House of Representatives: Kathy Knecht (D) is a rational and pragmatic candidate whose involvement in the community has left her ready to represent her district in the Legislature. She understands the importance of strategic investments that generate high returns. She supports CTE to ensure students can start their career exploration while preparing to be highly skilled workers in the future.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 22

State Senate: David Livingston (R) has been a supporter of the technology agenda and has worked to reduce regulations during his tenure in the Legislature. He understands the importance of programs that incentivize the behaviors to not only grow, attract and retain business, but also to increase the funds in the state's coffers to pay for other key priorities.

House of Representatives: Ben Toma (R) has proven himself as a leader in tax policy by helping lead the charge on tax conformity and updating Arizona's statutes to ensure a fair tax environment for businesses in the ever-growing digital marketplace. Additionally, he understands the importance of key economic development programs proven to have great returns on investments for the taxpayer. This led him to sponsor legislation in the most recent session to extend multiple programs, including keeping the current R&D tax credit levels for the next 10 years.

House of Representatives: Frank Carroll (R) takes an innovative approach to crafting legislation and has even sponsored measures that address workforce development issues in Arizona. He shows a real understanding of the technology community and its impact on economic development. He takes his time to look at the entire picture before making a decision and has supported the technology agenda.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 23

State Senate: No endorsements.

House of Representatives: John Kavanagh (R) is a conservative steward of state finances. He always keeps an open mind and works hard to engage all stakeholders. He has been a supporter of many Council priorities during his tenure in the Legislature.

House of Representatives: Jay Lawrence (R) is a pro-business legislator who has taken a balanced approach since he was elected. He has a history of supporting sensible tax policy including targeted incentives. He has always enthusiastically supported the Council priorities and has an open-door policy to ensure he hears all sides of an issue.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 24

State Senate: Lela Alston (D) has served the community in the Legislature for many years, and her approach to legislation and working with other legislators has earned her respect from members of both parties. Education has long been her passion and focus, but she has also been a strong supporter of initiatives that support the technology industry.

House of Representatives: Jennifer Longdon (D) has proven to be a rising star in the Democrat caucus. She does not shy away from issues and works diligently to ensure the voices of her constituents are heard. She has supported many of the Council's priorities.

House of Representatives: Amish Shah (D) has proven to be a pragmatic legislator willing to work across the aisle in order to craft and advance legislative priorities. As a physician, his caucus looks to him for his health care expertise. He understands the importance of economic development programs proven to pay dividends to Arizona's taxpayers and has also supported several of the Council's initiatives.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 25

State Senate: Tyler Pace (R) is a business owner and as such understands the importance of having policies that support businesses instead of creating burdens for entrepreneurs. He has supported the Council's priorities and even sponsored legislation to update Arizona's security exemptions statutes to maximize utilization.

House of Representatives: Michelle Udall (R) has been a strong supporter of the Council and even sponsored its priority STEM legislation in the most recent session. As chair of the education committee, she is a great voice for public education and strives to make sure students from all walks of life have access to a quality education and are ready for the jobs of tomorrow, whether through traditional learning or career and technical training.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 26

State Senate: No endorsements.

House of Representatives: Debbie Nez-Manuel (D) is running for the open seat in the district. She is passionate about public education, ensuring equitable access to education and expanding access to broadband services in rural Arizona not only for education purposes but also for telehealth purposes. She supports business incentives that have accountability measures to ensure taxpayer money is being invested well.

House of Representatives: Marcus Sifuentes (R) wants to make his mark in the Legislature representing the middle-class trade worker and is very supportive of CTE programs in K-12 and STEM education. He supports economic development programs such as the Angel Investment and R&D tax credits because they have proven track records of creating jobs and providing returns on investment for taxpayers.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 27

State Senate: Rebecca Rios (D) has focused much of her attention on education during her many years in the Legislature. However, she also understands the importance of proven economic development programs that pay large dividends to Arizona, which increases the funding the state is then able to appropriate to priorities such as education. She is a thoughtful and reasonable legislator when it comes to finding a balance between the state's priorities.

House of Representatives: Reginald Bolding (D) has shown to be a reasonable legislator during his tenure in the House and a strong supporter of public education. He works to protect Arizona's vulnerable populations while still supporting proven economic development programs and other key initiatives of importance to the technology industry.

House of Representatives: Diego Rodriguez (D) is looking to return for a second term in the House. He is a strong supporter of education and believes it to be the foundation of a strong economy. He supports economic incentives to support small businesses that have metrics to analyze the effectiveness of such programs.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 28

State Senate: Kate Brophy McGee (R) has proven to be a champion of the technology agenda during her many years of service in the Legislature. She has been a strong advocate and driver for education and non-discrimination, and was the sponsor of the proposal allowing the Council to offer an association health plan bringing high-quality health care coverage at affordable prices that had previously been out of reach for small businesses. She has also been instrumental in keeping legislation that could be harmful to Arizona's business reputation from advancing.

House of Representatives: Aaron Lieberman (D) has proven to be a thoughtful legislator able to work across the aisle to advance the state as a whole. He has been a strong advocate for public education, especially special education and closing the achievement gap in lower socioeconomic school districts. He has been a supporter of many of the Council's priorities.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 29

State Senate: No endorsements.

House of Representatives: César Chávez (D) has shown he is willing to stand up for what is right for his district and all of Arizona by supporting initiatives that benefit the state, its businesses and its taxpayers. He was instrumental in getting some of the economic development initiatives across the finish line. He is passionate about ensuring his community has educational and economic opportunities in the future.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 30

State Senate: Otoniel "Tony" Navarrete (D) is committed to creating an environment where his constituents can find well-paying jobs through supporting proven economic development programs, job training and investing in education to prepare people for the jobs available in Arizona. During his tenure in the Legislature, he has been pragmatic and supportive of many of the Council's priorities.

House of Representatives: Robert Meza (D) has been a great friend of the Council during his many years in the Legislature. He has been a supporter of targeted tax investments proven to benefit the state. He works across the aisle to ensure funding for his key priorities and consistently highlights the many benefits that businesses bring to Arizona through jobs and funding for his community's priorities.

With the 2019 and 2020 sessions behind us, the Council reflected on how state legislators voted on initiatives critical to its mission and members. With the support and leadership from both parties, the Council was able to make strides that moved its legislative agenda forward.

There were several successes in the 2019 legislative session that helped further advance Arizona as a place where technology companies could thrive due to the overall business climate; high-quality, affordable health care options; and Arizona's investing in preparing our students to become the workforce our companies will need. A few of those successes were SB1085, which gave associations the opportunity to offer small businesses the same type of high-quality health insurance coverage large employers can provide at an affordable price; SB1089, which allowed more universal application of telemedicine; HB2569, which fast-tracked the state occupational licensing process if a resident was already licensed in another state; and HB2673, which established the property technology sandbox. Additionally, Arizona made steps to be a more inclusive state with bipartisan support for SB1343, which repealed a 1991 statute that prevented LGBTQ students from receiving medically accurate information in schools.

The 2020 legislative session was different than any other session that had come before it. Although all legislative sessions have their own personality, the challenges of 2020 made this legislative session truly unique. The session began with a fiscal outlook of a \$1 billion surplus. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic that swept the nation, Arizona's 2020 legislative session ended with a potential \$1 billion deficit and the fewest bills ever signed into law in the state's history. With the budget outlook unknown due to the pandemic, left on the cutting block were several key initiatives for the Council, including extension of the Angel Investment tax credit and creation of a STEM ecosystem with the state appropriating funds to the mission. However, there were some key economic development programs that were continued through HB2771.

The Public Policy Committee and Council staff worked with legislators, elected officials and other stakeholders to educate them on the value and promise of technology and ensuring the state was preparing for technology's future workforce needs. This led to the following:

- Education funding has been a priority for the past several legislative sessions. In 2018, the Legislature passed a 20% teacher pay raise by 2020, along with the restoration of District and Charter Additional Assistance (DAA/CAA). During the 2019 and 2020 sessions, Gov. Doug Ducey and the Legislature followed through on the promise of the teacher pay raise and even added dollars to speed up the restoration of DAA and CAA. Additionally, they added more funding for CTE programs and STEM programming. As mentioned earlier, there were some measures left unfinished in this area, which include targeted investments to close the achievement gap of students, the referral of the increase in Proposition 301, and creation of the STEM ecosystem to which the Legislature would have appropriated funds for STEM opportunities in rural communities.
- Economic development and proven incentive programs are among the tools that have shown great success in helping turn Arizona into a technology hub. Although the Council's priority of extending the Angel Investment tax credit for another 10 years was one of the bills that did not receive a final vote in the 2020 legislative session due to the coronavirus pandemic, there was some great progress on other programs. Representative Ben Toma's HB2771 extended several proven economic development programs, including keeping the current levels of the R&D tax credit in place for the next 10 years. The bill also extended the Qualified Facilities and International Operation Centers tax credits until 2031.
- Health care costs are probably one of the largest concerns of technology companies in Arizona, right behind finding the right talent to employ. In 2019, Senator Kate Brophy McGee sponsored SB1085 that updated Arizona's statutes to permit the new federally allowed association health plans (AHPs). These AHPs allow smaller companies to have access to the same high-quality health insurance plans offered by larger companies at a much more affordable price. This allows companies to stop having to choose between health insurance coverage and the new employees or equipment that a company may need. The passage of this legislation enabled the Council to offer its members access to an AHP that provides extremely rich benefits to their employees.

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 pre-kindergarten through postsecondary with technology-based and blended learning.

GRADE A

Sen. Sean Bowie	Rep. Timothy M. Dunn	Sen. J.D. Mesnard	Sen. Frank Pratt
Sen. Paul Boyer	Sen. Karen Fann	Rep. Robert Meza	Rep. Tony Rivero
Sen. Kate Brophy McGee	Sen. David Gowan	Sen. Otoniel "Tony" Navarrete	Rep. Thomas "T.J." Shope
Rep. Frank Carroll	Sen. Rick Gray	Rep. Becky Nutt	Rep. Arlando Teller
Sen. Heather Carter	Rep. Alma Hernandez	Rep. Joanne Osborne	Rep. Bob Thorpe
Rep. César Chávez	Rep. Daniel Hernandez	Sen. Tyler Pace	Rep. Ben Toma
Rep. Regina Cobb	Rep. John Kavanagh	Rep. Jennifer Pawlik	Rep. Michelle Udall
Rep. David Cook	Rep. Jay Lawrence	Rep. Steve Pierce	Rep. Jeff Weninger

GRADE B

Rep. John Allen	Rep. Andrés Cano	Rep. Jennifer Jermaine	Sen. Rebecca Rios
Sen. Sylvia Allen	Sen. Lupe Contreras	Sen. Sine Kerr	Rep. Bret Roberts
Sen. Lela Alston	Rep. Domingo De Grazia	Sen. Vince Leach	Rep. Diego Rodriguez
Rep. Leo Biasiucci	Rep. Kirsten Engel	Rep. Aaron Lieberman	Rep. Amish Shah
Rep. Walter Blackman	Rep. Diego Espinoza	Sen. David Livingston	Rep. Myron Tsosie
Rep. Reginald Bolding	Rep. Mark Finchem	Rep. Jennifer Longdon	Rep. Lorenzo Sierra
Sen. Sonny Borrelli	Rep. Randall Frieze	Sen. Lisa Otondo	Sen. Victoria Steele
Sen. David Bradley	Rep. Rosanna Gabaldón	Rep. Kevin Payne	
Rep. Noel Campbell	Rep. Gail Griffin	Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai	

GRADE C

Rep. Richard Andrade	Rep. Mitzi Epstein	Rep. Travis Grantham	Sen. Martín Quezada
Rep. Nancy Barto	Sen. David C. Farnsworth	Rep. Anthony Kern	Rep. Raquel Terán
Rep. Shawanna Bolick	Sen. Eddie Farnsworth	Sen. Juan Mendez	Rep. Kelly Townsend
Rep. Rusty Bowers	Rep. Charlene Fernandez	Rep. Gerae Peten	Sen. Michelle Ugenti-Rita
Rep. Kelli Butler	Rep. John Fillmore	Rep. Warren Petersen	
Sen. Andrea Dalessandro	Sen. Sally Ann Gonzales	Rep. Pamela Powers Hannley	

GRADE D

Rep. Isela Blanc	Rep. Athena Salman
------------------	--------------------



We thank the Arizona Technology Council's Public Policy Committee, whose members helped develop the 2020 Vote TechSmart guide. For questions regarding this guide or the Council, please contact President + CEO Steven G. Zylstra by phone at 602.422.9447 or 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 nearly 800 member companies, the Council informs and educates policymakers 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 work of the committee encompasses the five targeted areas of tax policy, technology commercialization and development, workforce development, supply-chain development and capital formation. The Committee, along with Council staff, work with legislators, elected officials and policymakers at all government levels to educate them on the value and promise of the technology industry. For more information on getting involved with the Council's Public Policy Committee, please email staff liaison Ron Schott at rschott@aztechcouncil.org.

