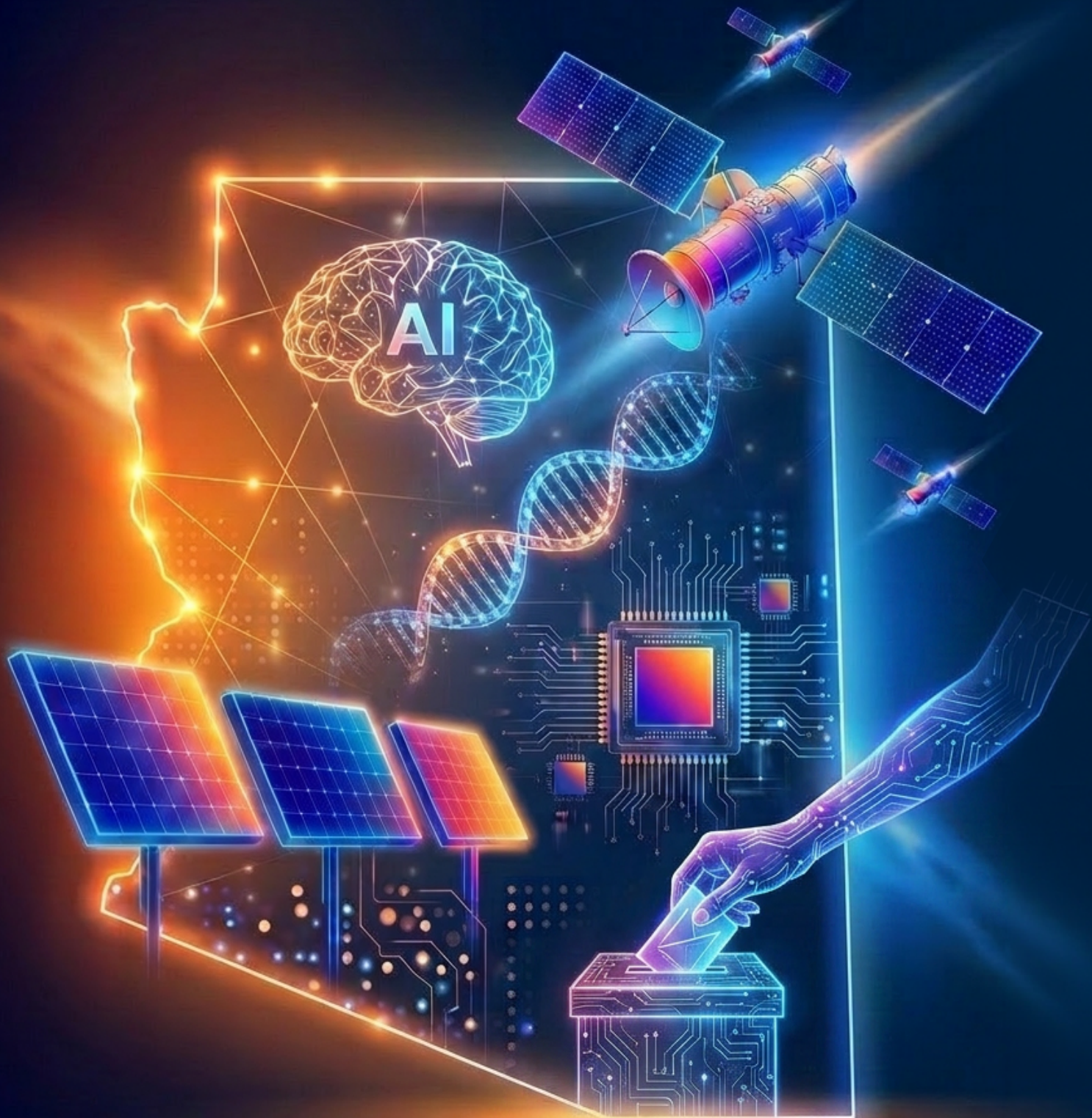


VOTE *2026* TECHSMART



ARIZONA
TECHNOLOGY
COUNCIL
a place to connect and grow



VOTE 2026 TECHSMART

The Vote TechSmart guide is a biennial resource produced by the Arizona Technology Council to provide our members, politicians, friends and stakeholders with a comprehensive overview 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 2026 elections. The Council does not make endorsements on statewide or congressional races.

The guide includes endorsements based on each incumbent's past voting records on technology industry issues, along with information collected from a written survey and legislative candidate interviews.

To determine the endorsements, the Council's Public Policy Committee drew from some of its recent legislative outcomes, along with each 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 supports legislation that furthers Arizona's mission to become the fastest-growing tech hub in the nation, it opposes any bill potentially having a negative economic impact.

The Public Policy Committee interviewed nearly 60 incumbent and non-incumbent candidates over a five-day period, asking important questions on behalf of the technology industry. The committee carefully selected bills from the two most recent legislative sessions to determine which legislators showed a commitment to the Council member industries and issues. Those bills dealt with economic development incentive programs; continuation of the Arizona Commerce Authority; creating a statewide science, technology, engineering and

mathematics (STEM) ecosystem; transportation infrastructure; energy-related policies; and many other topics.

To help you choose among those 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 of Representatives candidates in each district, the Council only recommends the 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 visiting <https://www.azleg.gov/findmylegislator/>.

If you are not yet registered to vote, there's still time to register for the general election in November. Visit the Arizona Secretary of State's website at [azsos.gov](https://www.azsos.gov). To stay current on politics and policies affecting the state's technology industry, visit the Council's Policy + Advocacy landing page at www.aztechcouncil.org/public-policy.

Casting your vote in the upcoming election is critical to protecting and advancing Arizona's growing technology sector. As an integral part of the Council, our friends, members and stakeholders understand the role technology plays in the state's economy. It is crucial to convene as one voice to elect candidates who strongly support continued progress of Arizona's technology industry.



LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 1

STATE SENATE: No endorsement.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Selina Bliss (R) is a retired nurse and nurse educator who has been a stalwart champion of medical issues, such as access to care and regulatory reform, which she did while serving as the chairwoman of the Health & Human Services Committee. She has championed issues of great importance to the Council, including STEM education and workforce development. She sponsored legislation to provide additional Health Innovation Trust Fund support and to address groundwater issues facing the state. She has supported increased investment in public infrastructure improvements and ways to address affordability in her community, and worked to reduce governmental overreach. Her measured approach to policymaking will greatly benefit Arizona, including the technology community.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Quang Nguyen (R) showed himself to be a thoughtful legislator during his time at the Legislature. While he is a more conservative member, he also understands the importance of key investments in certain sectors of our economy, especially supporting our military installations and companies. He served as chair of the Judiciary Committee and used his no-nonsense and pragmatic policymaking approach to advance legislation dealing with tough issues such as the fentanyl crisis and weapons trafficking. He has backed legislative issues supported by the Council, such as workforce development, artificial intelligence policy and sustainable energy with small modular reactors. He supports a lower tax burden for all Arizonans, as well as reducing burdensome regulations for businesses, resulting in a strong state economy.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 2

STATE SENATE: Shawna Bolick (R) is a long-time legislator with a well-established conservative track record that has served her well at the Legislature. She currently serves as chair of the Regulatory Affairs and Government Efficiency Committee, where she has heard bills that address important technology issues such as solar permitting, small modular reactors and advanced air mobility. Her track record has demonstrated a commitment to economic development and regulatory reform that is very beneficial to not only the technology industry but Arizona as a whole. She is a thoughtful legislator who works collaboratively to advance policy to support a thriving Arizona enabling all families to have opportunities here.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Justin Wilmeth (R) is the current chairman of the Artificial Intelligence and Innovation Committee and a former legislative staffer with extensive experience that has served Arizona well. He has proven to be a pro-business, pro-technology conservative who has delved into issues such as data centers, artificial intelligence and energy. He has taken a proactive position on technology issues to address research funding and championed issues for the Council, including advancing computer

science in schools. He has been a huge advocate of trade and has proven himself to be a champion for Arizona's business community to give families in his district and across the state more opportunities.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Stephanie Simacek (D) is a former educator and school board member who values education and the crucial role it plays in workforce development. Prior to becoming an educator, she worked in the technology space, which gave her a greater understanding of what the industry needs to thrive. However, her passion was to give back to the community and prepare students for the workforce opportunities of the future. She has been supportive of the Council's priorities, especially in workforce development, computer science and working collaboratively to move Arizona in the right direction.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 3

STATE SENATE: John Kavanagh (R) has had a long and distinguished career serving Arizona. He is a proven conservative who values efficient government, innovation and economic prosperity for Arizonans. During his tenure at the Capitol, he has had an open-door policy for technology stakeholders, allowing him to have the time to discuss the issues and how industry is affected, as well as becoming a supporter of policies that have helped Arizona's technology industry thrive. As majority leader, he works to try advancing the majority's agenda through the Legislature, which includes supporting pro-business policies.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Jay Schlum (R) has served as mayor of Fountain Hills and on a variety of boards and commissions. That experience plus being a small business owner with a technology background has helped him develop a broad knowledge base regarding the issues facing Arizona and the business and technology communities. He believes in having a dialogue with stakeholders and other legislators to seek practical and collaborative solutions to the state's problems. In addition to this philosophy, he believes in easing regulatory burdens to empower businesses and supports the proper use of tax incentives to help spur on innovation and workforce development.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Julie Gable (D) is a consultant and former owner/CEO of a Scottsdale-based technology consulting firm. Her business background has equipped her with a very professional and level-headed approach to policymaking that would serve her well if elected. While access to healthcare is one of her top priorities, technology and AI policies comprise another area of great importance to her. She understands not only the need for a diversified energy portfolio and a strong education system but also providing opportunities for adults seeking new career paths, especially in the field of technology. Her outside-the-box thinking regarding water issues has been recognized and she advocates allowing advanced purification and conservation to help support Arizona's growing population.



LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 4

STATE SENATE: Carine Werner (R) is a passionate advocate for what she believes in and showed that grit and determination in her freshman term. She worked on policy to help ensure generations to come will have the chance at the same opportunities as those before them. While she comes from an education background and understands the importance of preparing Arizona's students for the jobs of the future, as a freshman legislator she successfully chaired the Health and Human Services Committee where she fought for increased patient access to care and reforms to child welfare issues. She supports policies incentivizing businesses to create job opportunities and foster an overall business-friendly environment that will strengthen and advance Arizona's economic growth.

STATE SENATE: Aaron Lieberman (D) is a former legislator with a history of supporting Council priorities and principles. He focuses on results and believes government should have intentional policies that drive growth, foster innovation and make strategic investments to help Arizonans succeed in school and business. As a business owner with experience in technology, he understands the need for the state to have a stable, sustainable financial plan that addresses affordability and housing crisis, as well as invests in economic development, including a forward-looking infrastructure strategy that prioritizes water security, energy resilience and modern transportation. His previous experience and support show he is committed to making Arizona a great place to start a business and raise a family.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Matt Gress (R) has a background as a teacher, school board member and former state budget director. He understands how government decisions impact families, businesses, schools, healthcare providers and taxpayers, and as such, he tries to bring a practical, results-based approach to the Legislature. As the Education Committee chairman, he has advanced policies to help ensure pathways for workforce development, including advanced mathematics and CTEDs, and worked to increase teacher pay, early literacy initiatives and school safety. He also supports policies to maintain Arizona's competitive business climate by expanding access to venture capital, encouraging entrepreneurship and reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens that make it harder for startups and innovation to thrive.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Tammy Caputi (D) is a former Scottsdale City Council member and small business owner with a good handle on issues affecting the state, especially economic development. During her time on city council, she chaired the Development Review Board, where she tried to ensure large technology companies maintained their headquarters in the city and worked on developing apprenticeships with state universities. She believes in a boots-on-the-ground approach to solving problems and working to advance Arizona's economy. She supports targeted incentives that spur innovation and economic development, and understands a strong economy requires an educated workforce.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 5

STATE SENATE: Christine Marsh (D) is a former educator seeking to return to the state Senate, where she served from 2021 to 2024. As a teacher for more than three decades, she is passionate about education and continues trying to find ways to improve education funding overall, especially in key areas such as STEM and CTEDs. She also has supported certain economic development programs in which taxpayers are the winners in returns on investments and the state has more funding for other key priorities. She has worked in a bipartisan manner during her tenure and the Council would expect that to continue upon her return.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Sarah Liguori (D) has shown herself to be thoughtful in her approach at the Legislature, focusing on analyzing the facts of legislation. She is a strong advocate of public education, knowing it is the foundation that gives every child the opportunity for a successful life, regardless of their ZIP codes or circumstances. She understands the importance of providing clean air and quality water to secure a future that works for all Arizonans, including supporting transitions to clean energy and ensuring we are drawing down all the resources possible through federal programs. Her people-focused approach to policymaking will ensure that Arizona's people and economy thrive.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 6

STATE SENATE: Myron Tsosie (D) has been serving his district for several years and is looking to move to the Senate to continue that service. He has been a strong advocate for Arizona's tribal nations during his tenure. Additionally, he has demonstrated a calm demeanor and determination in supporting education and economic development, as well as in opposing bills that would harm Arizona's renewable energy industry. His thoughtful and measured approach has shown him to be supportive of the Council's agenda.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: No endorsement.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 7

STATE SENATE: No endorsement.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Walt Blackman (R) continuously proves he will fight to put the interests of Arizona's families, workers, veterans and rural communities first, initially through his military service and now his continued service at the Legislature. He has been a strong supporter of the Council's priorities, as well as policies and initiatives that foster an environment where innovation can flourish, small businesses can thrive and every Arizonan has access to high-paying jobs. He believes strengthening our economy is crucial for building a state where opportunity is abundant and accessible to all. Ensuring his district and the state remain wonderful places to live, work and raise a family is why he wants to continue serving in the House.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: David Cook (R) is a former legislator who has a proven track record of fighting for the needs of rural Arizona. During his previous tenure, he was a strong supporter of workforce development and education, especially STEM, and important issues such as water. He advocated more economic development programs and resources focused on rural Arizona, working hard to bring high-quality, high-paying jobs to his district. He also previously focused on international trade and understands the importance of infrastructure to Arizona's trade and commerce.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 8

STATE SENATE: No endorsement.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Janeen Connolly (D) has a lot of experience serving her community throughout her career working on energy-related projects and now at the Legislature. She is a strong supporter of education and community colleges, as well as workforce development, including more tech certifications. She wants to ensure students start getting access to workforce development opportunities at an earlier age. She brought her experience to help advocate affordable housing and sound energy policy. She also has supported the Council's priorities and sponsored legislation that would have created a technology study committee to look at how assistive technology can better serve Arizona residents.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 9

STATE SENATE: Kiana Sears (D) has an extensive résumé of public service prior to her appointment to the Senate in March 2025. Her experience includes previously working for the Senate and the Arizona Corporation Commission, which gave her a deep understanding of several key issues impacting the state. Bringing high-wage jobs to Arizonans is a top priority for her, so much so that she earned a semiconductor certification to better understand what is required to meet the needs of the industry. She is very supportive of startups and targeted incentives to support them as they help to fuel community uplift. During her tenure at the Legislature, she has advocated public education, a diverse energy portfolio, affordable housing and a stable workforce pipeline to connect people with thriving career paths.

STATE SENATE: Dr. Bridget Fitzgibbons (R) is a physician with an extensive résumé of service to her community. In addition to her medical expertise, she has worked in the K-12 education space, served on several boards and task forces, and runs her own small business. She supports policies that keep Arizona moving toward being a national leader in the technology space, such as investing in a prepared workforce through more K-12 funding, community colleges, JTEDs, CTEs and technical training that equip students with the skills necessary to compete. Additionally, she would advocate responsible energy infrastructure, sound water policy and targeted incentives to grow the technology ecosystem and the state's economy.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: No endorsement

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 10

STATE SENATE: David Farnsworth (R) is chairman of the Senate Appropriations, Transportation and Technology committee. During his distinguished tenure as a legislator, he has demonstrated a willingness to tackle the issues facing the state by working with all stakeholders. He has shown a strong desire to make advancements in the transportation and technology space by seeking to address supporting and regulating advanced air mobility and supporting small businesses across the state. In addition, he supports career and technical education for students, sound artificial intelligence policy, and a diversified energy portfolio, including nuclear energy.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Ciara Anderson (R) has a background in workforce operations and large-scale infrastructure support. Her personal and professional background has resulted in a political platform that supports small businesses, funds all forms of education, and emphasizes student achievement and workforce readiness to meet demands of the market. She understands Arizona's growing technology and advanced manufacturing industries need reliable and strong energy resources and supports policies to pursue diversifying the energy portfolio to address those critical needs. Additionally, she advocates responsible and innovative water policy to aid Arizona's growth.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 11

STATE SENATE: Catherine Miranda (D) is a former teacher, principal, school administrator and school board member who is a strong advocate for public education. Focusing on this priority means she supports preparing the future generations with the skills needed to pursue higher education or entering the high-skilled workforce. She also has championed or supported policies that allow large regional businesses to plant roots in Arizona, proven economic development programs, bringing more high-paying jobs to the state, and expanding access to affordable housing and childcare so people can support their families.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Junelle Cavero (D) has proven to be a strong supporter of the Council and sound economic development policy. As a business owner and lifelong community advocate, she also has developed a deep understanding of technology industry needs. During her tenure, she has strongly supported public education, good water policy, enhanced renewable energy access and housing affordability. She has promoted and supported policies that help solidify Arizona's technology and advanced manufacturing industry, including proven economic development programs, alongside targeted workforce development through partnerships with educational institutions and infrastructure investments.



LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 12

STATE SENATE: Patricia “Patty” Contreras (D) is an Arizona native and previously worked for the City of Phoenix in Human Services programs that support seniors. Since 2023 she has been serving in the Arizona House of Representatives, where she has strongly supported public education, sustainable water policies, renewable energy and social safety net programs such as SNAP and housing assistance. She has been supportive of several of the Council’s priorities. She is now running to represent her district in the Senate, where she will continue to support policies that benefit her community and the state.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Anastasia “Stacey” Travers (D) is a two-term legislator, scientist and veteran who understands the importance of investing in, innovating and growing opportunities that cultivate a strong, diverse, equitable and statewide workforce to build a strong Arizona economy. She sees the technology industry as a large driver of the state’s economic success and works in a bipartisan manner to advance policies that continue the state’s competitiveness and economic growth. As a mother, she also sees the importance of making sure Arizona’s youth have access to an educational system that helps prepare them for the jobs of the future and wants to continue advocating public schools.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Armando Montero (D) is a rising star in the political world. He is a two-term member of the Tempe Union High School District governing board and is running for the Legislature to help advance smart, long-term policies supporting education, housing, water and workforce development to ensure Arizona’s economy works for everyone. Additionally, he supports renewable energy, targeted tax incentives and creating a sustainable workforce pipeline between educational institutions and the labor market. He wants to build on policies to continue Arizona’s momentum as a technology and advanced manufacturing hub, bringing high-paying jobs to the state.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 13

STATE SENATE: Julie Willoughby (R) is currently the Republican whip in the House of Representatives but is running for the open Senate seat. She is an emergency room trauma nurse who brings her quick thinking and detail-oriented decision-making to serve her community at the Legislature. While her legislative priorities have included healthcare and insurance reform, she also has taken on ensuring there are appropriate guardrails in AI and innovative technologies to ensure the safety of Arizona’s youth. She understands the needs of small businesses and ensuring their importance to our state’s economy to enable growth and development within their communities.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Kevin Hartke (R) has a long track record of public service, including currently being mayor of Chandler, and has served on myriad boards and commissions, including the Arizona Commerce Author-

ity, League of Cities and Towns, and the Greater Phoenix Economic Council. With this broad experience, he brings a no nonsense and pragmatic worldview and work ethic to his approach to public service. He is focused on long-term planning, smart investments and collaboration to continue economic success of the state and his community by ensuring the House works to attract the right businesses and industries to Arizona.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Janet Weninger (R) is a small business owner who will support policies that continue making Arizona an attractive state for innovation, advanced manufacturing and technology investment. She wants to strengthen workforce readiness by building stronger partnerships between schools, community colleges, universities, trade programs and the private sector so students are prepared for technology industry jobs. She also has a passion for foster youth and supporting families in her community. Her calm demeanor and business sensibilities will help sustain an environment where the technology industry can continue to grow and strengthen Arizona’s economy.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 14

STATE SENATE: No endorsements.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Laurin Hendrix (R) is a small business owner dedicated to ensuring quality of life and opportunities for generations to come through supporting conservative values and working to ensure a regulatory environment where businesses can thrive. With a vast array of experience in different fields, he understands the importance of a strong education system, solid and growing infrastructure, and a tax and regulatory environment that supports a robust economy for businesses to start and succeed here. He previously was on the Maricopa County Community College District governing board and the Gilbert City Council, which helps him better understand the needs of his community and the businesses located there.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Tyler Farnsworth (R) is an East Valley native with real world business experience running several technology-enabled companies for the past decade. He is a strong advocate of regulatory reform to help the business and education communities with an emphasis on innovation, vocational training and workforce development. He supports keeping regulations to a minimum so innovators test new ideas here, keeping Arizona open to businesses and innovation. His business savvy demeanor and approach to the issues will help continue making Arizona one of the best states in the country in which to live and work.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 15

STATE SENATE: No endorsements.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Neal Carter (R) is a lawyer, small business owner and current speaker pro tempore who has demonstrated his commitment to ensuring investments in infrastructure needs to support companies



already in Arizona and those that wish to come to the state. Additionally, he supports the technology industry collaborating with educational institutions to ensure workforce needs are met into the future. He is a big supporter of limited government and low taxes to ensure all Arizonans have the opportunity to thrive while still investing in the state's core responsibilities.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 16

STATE SENATE: TJ Shope (R) has long been a champion of technology issues, especially when they bring jobs to rural Arizona. He has proven to be a level-headed leader willing to put in the work to continue improving the business environment for Arizona and reaches across the aisle to get his initiatives accomplished. He is a strong advocate of water, education and healthcare. He brings his family business principles to the Legislature and has been instrumental in getting the state to invest in the transportation infrastructure needs that support Arizona's commerce. His role as the Senate Natural Resources chairman has put him on the front lines in passing seminal bills such as Ag to Urban to help protect Arizona's water future.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Chris Lopez (R) has established himself as a thoughtful and collaborative legislator who prioritizes economic development, as well as expanding access to healthcare and opportunity in rural Arizona. As a small business owner, he understands the importance of a skilled workforce and the need for policies that enable businesses and innovators to succeed, supporting policies that strengthen Arizona's competitiveness. Among his efforts was sponsoring legislation that would have helped commercial, industrial, and agricultural property owners access private, long-term financing for energy-efficiency improvements, water-conservation projects, and structural resiliency upgrades. Known for his accessibility and willingness to engage with stakeholders, he has proven to be an advocate for the technology and business communities.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Teresa Martinez (R) is the chairwoman of the Rural and Economic Development Committee, which perfectly aligns with her priorities. She is a conservative member who is a fierce advocate of the necessary infrastructure to support businesses and their commerce needs, as well as expand economic development across the state, especially rural Arizona. She has championed legislation to ensure innovative companies have access to the investments and the proper regulatory framework for starting and thriving here. She values collaboration with stakeholders to ensure the state's needs are met in a thoughtful manner. She is passionate about serving her community through bringing economic opportunities to her district and the state.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 17

STATE SENATE: Chris King (R) is a retired member of the U.S. Air Force who is dedicated to ensuring Arizona's pros-

perity for future generations. He is an advocate of all forms of education and wants to reduce unfunded mandates to ensure student success. Additionally, he supports measures such as targeted incentives to attract and retain crucial technology partners, such as data centers and advanced manufacturing. He has a pragmatic approach to workforce development, envisioning public-private partnerships that can reach children as young as middle school to spark innovation and recruit talent at an early age. His proactive philosophy also applies to energy, specifically the need to further develop a robust energy portfolio in the state. This kind of pragmatism and forward thinking will ensure the success of the technology industry in Arizona.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Kevin Volk (D) was born and raised in Tucson and has proven to be a legislator willing to work across party lines to advance good policy. He understands the importance of gathering experts to develop solutions that are right for his district and Arizonans. He is a data-driven decision maker and understands how technology and innovation can be used to address many of the issues facing Arizona, including water and energy. He will look at the return on investment of any economic development program to ensure the state is a winner in the end. Being a former schoolteacher, ensuring access to educational opportunities for all students is important to him, which also helps attract businesses looking to relocate their operations to the state.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: John Winchester (R) is a lifelong Tucsonan with strong ties to the business community, having served on various boards and policy groups such as Greater Tucson Leadership and The Chamber of Southern Arizona. In addition to business ties, he works in the higher education space to advocate better alignment in the pipeline from K-12 to industry. This will help ensure Arizona has an ample and capable workforce to fill the needs of the technology sector. Forward, common-sense policies such as these will position the state to continue its momentum toward becoming one of the largest technology hubs in the nation.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 18

STATE SENATE: Priya Sundareshan (D) is a Tucson native, mother, environmental lawyer and the current Senate Democratic leader. She holds a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Juris Doctor from The University of Arizona, which has uniquely positioned her to be an influential voice in important issues such as water policy and energy. She believes in a science-based approach to policymaking, which has guided her policy formation. She strongly supports renewable energy, public education and workforce development by creating partnerships between companies, universities and community colleges, and hopes to bring that into the high school systems.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Nancy Gutierrez (D) is a long-time teacher and the assistant Democratic leader in the House who is driven to make positive change for her



community and the state. With her background in education, ensuring students have access to a quality education that appropriately prepares them for the workforce is a top priority of hers, including support of JTEDs, CTEDs and more technology in classrooms starting as early as middle school. Additionally, she is a strong advocate of renewable energy and sustainable water policy with an emphasis on conservation and groundwater management. These policy positions align with the Council's priorities and serve Arizonans well.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 19

STATE SENATE: No endorsement.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Lupe Diaz (R) is a conservative whose commitment to his rural community is apparent. He is dedicated to ensuring families have the freedom to pursue their dreams, the right to ensure their children are educated for the jobs of tomorrow and businesses have the support to thrive in Arizona's economy. With his background including the Benson Area Chamber, he understands the needs of the business community and supports programs and incentives that will help industries continue to grow here and offer high-quality jobs to Arizonans.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: David Gowan (R) has continuously proven to be a champion for the business and technology community during his tenure as a legislator. He always has been an advocate of a balanced budget complete with the incentives needed to attract and retain both businesses and their needed workforce. He has been instrumental in extending key economic development tools essential to the growth of the technology industry, and supports lowering the tax burden on businesses and reducing red tape that companies may face.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 20

STATE SENATE: Alma Hernandez (D) has been a champion for the priorities of the technology industry during her time at the legislature. She is a pragmatic legislator who has proven she works tirelessly to accomplish her legislative priorities, which include antisemitism, access to healthcare, educational opportunities and economic development. She has successfully sponsored several pieces of legislation that benefit her community. She also has supported policies that result in collaborations between companies and educational institutions and prioritize investment in infrastructure and policies that result in increased commerce and provide high-quality jobs not only for her community but across the state.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Betty Villegas (D) understands the importance of policies that ensure Arizona is developing, growing and supporting workforce training programs through STEM and CTEDs, our community colleges and universities, job training and apprenticeships to ensure workers are prepared for high-quality careers in technology,

advanced manufacturing, clean energy, water innovation and related industries. Additionally, her top priorities are addressing the affordable housing crisis so Arizonans can support their families and continuing to attract companies here to offer high-quality jobs.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 21

STATE SENATE: Rosanna Gabaldón (D) is running for reelection to the Senate and has proven to be a friend of the Council. Her legislative priorities include water sustainability and public education. She has supported several Council priorities, including developing a STEM ecosystem and economic development programs that help to bring high-quality jobs to her district. She understands the importance of providing the necessary infrastructure to support the economy and is always willing to meet with stakeholders to discuss important issues affecting them.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Consuelo Hernandez (D) is running for reelection because she has a passion for serving her community, crediting her parents for teaching her to serve others. With education as a top priority, she has served on the Sunnyside Unified School District board, and mentored and helped at-risk youth in her area, including DACA students. She is a champion for increasing investments in infrastructure and creating and supporting policies that would help Arizona become a national clean-technology industry leader. She is committed to restoring funding for education and helping rebuild Arizona.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Stephanie Stahl Hamilton (D) is running for reelection to work toward building a healthier, more equitable and more prosperous Arizona. She believes the best investment that can be made for the state's future is to invest in the education of children, including supporting apprenticeships and technical education programming to make sure students have the skills needed for Arizona's evolving technology-based economy. She is also passionate about the environment, with a mindset for sustainability, and has proven to be a defensive champion for clean energy and water conservation issues while still being supportive of incentivizing industries to keep Arizona's economy vibrant.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 22

STATE SENATE: Eva Diaz (D) is an educator and former chairwoman of the Tolleson Planning and Zoning Commission who is running for reelection in the Senate, where she will continue fiercely advocating public education, including JTEDs and CTEDs. She is one of the more reserved members of her caucus but is a supporter of issues important to the Council. Important issues she has supported include computer science, establishing a business environment to retain high technology companies, and workforce development. In addition to her support, she has faithfully opposed measures that seek to stymie the use of renewable energy in the state.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Elda Luna-Najera (D)

has proven to be committed to giving her community a voice at the Legislature. Workforce development is a top priority. She wants to strengthen and grow a sustainable workforce, including providing students with access to STEM early in their education. She supports policies that help businesses in her community thrive and encourage industry partnerships with higher education institutions. She also has a strong voting record of opposing legislation harmful to the renewable energy industry and public education and advocates proper infrastructure for citizens and businesses in her community.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Stephen Chapman

(D) was born and raised in Tolleson and has served on the Tolleson Union High School District board for nearly 20 years. He naturally is a strong supporter of public education, specifically creating certification pathways at the community college level and utilizing CTEDs and JTEDs to create tech pipeline programs that will ensure the Arizona workforce can meet the demands of the industry. Additionally, he advocates affordable housing, renewable energy, tax incentives to retain businesses, investing in energy infrastructure, and incentivizing new industries.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 23

STATE SENATE: Brian Fernandez (D) is a proven champion for his district who works to ensure everyone in his rural community can achieve the American Dream. Having a technology background, he understands that the industry is essential to Arizona's healthy and thriving economy, and recognizes the importance of innovation in all industries to help address some of Arizona's greatest needs, such as energy and water. He supports more funding for STEM education and community colleges as they are pathways toward addressing the workforce needs of Arizona's innovative companies. He fights to invest in safe, reliable infrastructure; sustainable water and energy; and access to health-care for all Arizonans, especially in his district.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Michelle Peña (R) is running for reelection to continue fighting to meet the needs of rural Arizona. She advocates all students having access to a quality education to prepare for more opportunities in the future. She supports innovation in agriculture and sustained water conservation initiatives, due in part to her family's enduring ties to her area and the agricultural business community. She also supports enhanced accessibility, transparency and accountability in healthcare. She has been a quiet but thoughtful legislator, looking at each issue on its merits and how it impacts her district.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Mariana Sandoval (D)

is a former school board member running for reelection who prioritizes supporting public schools. She believes a quality public education system is crucial to the attraction and retention of technology companies in Arizona. She is a member of the U.S. International Trade Committee and as such understands the importance of facilitating strong trade relationships for the state.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Matias Rosales (D) has demonstrated her commitment to strengthening Arizona's workforce, advancing educational excellence and supporting policies that promote innovation-driven economic growth. Her strong advocacy of both K-12 and higher education, understanding of Arizona's trade needs and opportunities, and dedication to building vibrant communities reflects the forward-thinking approach needed to ensure Arizona remains a premier destination for technology talent and investment.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 24

STATE SENATE: Analise Ortiz (D) has proven to be a thoughtful legislator who is passionate about her constituents having access to affordable housing, high quality education and workforce opportunities. She also is a proponent of supporting small business owners and entrepreneurs to ensure they can bring jobs to her community and the state. She consistently champions increased funding for public schools and CTEDs, recognizing the critical role they play in expanding educational pathways and workforce opportunities. Her efforts are focused on ensuring families in her district have access to the tools, training and resources needed to secure better economic opportunities in the future.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Lydia Hernandez (D) is an elected official known for working collaboratively across the political aisle and has made public education a central focus of her service to Arizona. In addition to serving as president of the Cartwright School District governing board, Hernandez has been a strong advocate of policies that strengthen K-12 education and expand educational opportunities for working-class families. Throughout her career, she has championed efforts to provide students with the resources, support and pathways needed to achieve long-term academic and economic success. She is also a strong advocate of bringing jobs to her district and the state while recognizing the workers as the backbone of our economy.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 25

STATE SENATE: Tim Dunn (R) understands the balance of rural and urban communities in the state's overall economic landscape. He has relied on his background as a small business owner to support Arizona's growing business community. Passionate about economic development, he has often advocated sensible tax policy, as well as numerous initiatives supported by the state's technology industry. Addressing Arizona's impending water crisis and energy reliability remain his top priorities to ensure the state's economy can continue to grow and flourish while still protecting the rural way of life.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Michael Carbone (R)

is currently majority leader in the House, where he has focused on a broad range of legislative priorities. They include addressing Arizona's housing affordability challenges by expanding the supply of buildable land and reducing local government fees and regulations that contribute to rising housing costs. He also has been a leading voice on



energy policy, sponsoring legislation to strengthen Arizona's energy infrastructure and prepare for emerging technologies such as small modular nuclear reactors. Recognizing Arizona's rapid population and economic growth will place increasing demands on the state's infrastructure, he has emphasized the need for long-term planning to ensure reliable, affordable energy for future generations.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 26

STATE SENATE: Flavio Bravo (D) is a native Arizonan who has focused his career on assisting immigrants, particularly DACA students, and is running for reelection to continue being an advocate for his community. He understands the housing and economic challenges Arizona is facing. He is very supportive of STEM education and increasing the availability of affordable housing so qualified teachers are encouraged to stay and continue teaching in Arizona. He encourages finding policy solutions to grow workforce opportunities in technology through providing students after-school opportunities and companies the necessary workforce to help Arizona's economy prosper. He has supported programs with proven economic results.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Cesar Aguilar (D) is a lifelong Arizonan running for reelection to continue the public service to which he has dedicated much of his adult life. His top priority is funding public schools – from pre-kindergarten to college – to help give students and families educational and workforce opportunities. He sponsored legislation to bring CTE opportunities to middle schoolers. He is also a strong advocate of solutions to the affordable housing supply shortage so families have the basic needs and tools for upward mobility and sustained success.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Quanta Crews (D) is passionate about her community and standing up for Arizonans who may not have a voice. With her diverse background, she understands Arizona's rise as a technology hub took deliberate, calculated investments in the right policies that have increased research and development, supported startups, and attracted high-quality, high-paying jobs. She consistently has supported increased investment in public education and skilled-trades training programs. She has emphasized creating pathways toward economic mobility through education and workforce development. She has supported Council initiatives and works to address inequities in government policy and expand opportunities for historically underserved communities.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 27

STATE SENATE: Kevin Payne (R) has proven to be a strong voice for small business during his time in the House and Senate. As a small business owner, he understands what industry needs from government and, more importantly, what it does not need. He has worked to reduce burdensome regulations and has a history of supporting the Council's technology agenda through policies that strengthen Arizona's technology sector and attract investment

in high-tech industries. He has been a great advocate for his community through his thoughtful approach to each legislative proposal. He works tirelessly to support our first responders and advocate investment in transportation and communication infrastructure.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Tony Rivero (R) has demonstrated a strong understanding of the importance of international trade to Arizona's economy, and articulated how global commerce, exports and cross-border business relationships contribute to job creation, economic growth and increased competitiveness. His support of policies that strengthen Arizona's business climate and expand economic opportunities aligns well with the Council's priorities for innovation, investment and long-term economic prosperity.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 28

STATE SENATE: Frank Carroll (R) brings a thoughtful and pragmatic approach to policymaking and has supported legislative efforts aimed at strengthening Arizona's workforce and economic competitiveness. He recognizes the important role that technology and innovation play in driving economic development and creating high-quality jobs throughout the state. He offers a comprehensive view of public policy issues, carefully weighing their long-term impacts on Arizona's residents, businesses and communities. He has been a consistent supporter of initiatives that advance Arizona's technology sector while emphasizing the importance of strategic infrastructure investments that will ensure the state is prepared for continued growth.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: David Livingston (R) is a long-time supporter of the technology agenda and has worked to reduce burdensome regulations during his tenure. His legislative agenda has demonstrated he understands the importance of programs that incentivize the behaviors to grow, attract and retain business in Arizona and strengthen the economy. A supporter of creating a competitive business climate, he consistently has pushed for detailed reporting on incentive deals and outcomes, and how tax incentive programs are meeting stated goals while supporting proven economic development programs.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 29

STATE SENATE: Janae Shamp (R) is focused on ensuring Arizonans have access to affordable, high-quality health-care. Drawing on her experience as an operating room nurse, she brings a detail-oriented and comprehensive approach to policymaking, carefully considering the full scope of issues and the steps needed to achieve effective outcomes. She applies this long-term perspective in the Legislature by advancing policies aimed at strengthening Arizona's healthcare system and supporting the state's broader economic development goals. She also has supported efforts to maintain and enhance Arizona's economic development tools, recognizing the importance of attracting and retaining businesses that create high-quality, well-paying jobs for Arizonans from all backgrounds.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Steve Montenegro

(R) is a thoughtful, common-sense conservative who is always willing to listen. He has demonstrated support for an economic climate that fosters innovation and growth and supports economic development programs that ensure local jurisdictions have the necessary infrastructure to attract advanced manufacturers or other innovative companies offering high-quality, high-paying jobs. A community nonprofit leader who has focused on youth development and education support, he understands the importance of helping students in underserved communities gain access to technical education and STEM education to ensure they have the necessary skills to meet the needs of Arizona's technology companies.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: James Taylor (R) has shown himself to be a legislator who has a thoughtful and deliberate approach to his decision-making. He has supported programs focused on startups, innovation and economic development, which helped set up Arizona's economy to thrive despite a budget deficit. As an ardent champion of pro-growth policies and job creation, Taylor adopts an "all-of-the-above" approach to energy. He wants to ensure Arizona continues its economic growth so individuals can achieve the American dream of having their children do better than their parents did. He has opposed regulatory constraints on development and energy, and has supported policies that reduce burdensome government intervention in free markets.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 30

STATE SENATE: Leo Biasiucci (R) has a strong record of support for the technology agenda and programs that help bring economic opportunity to the state, especially by encouraging economic investment in rural areas. To aid the economic growth of the state, he also has advocated legislation centered on increasing housing affordability and supply by limiting local land use restrictions. Additionally, he is a vocal critic of human trafficking and advanced legislation to strictly penalize those who commit child sex crimes. He continually works to ensure Arizona is a place where people want to live, work and raise a family with many economic opportunities.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: No endorsement.

Recap of the 2025 Legislative Session

There were several key successes in the 2025 legislative session that helped further advance Arizona as a place where technology companies can thrive. The Council's top legislative priority was funding toward computer science professional development. With most of the jobs of today and the future requiring some fundamental understanding of computer science, the Council has been working to ensure every student has the ability to take computer science courses throughout their education and at all levels. The budget included \$1 million of ongoing funding for professional development for computer science to ensure schools have the teachers to teach the courses.

Another top priority of the Council's was Sen. Frank Carroll's SB 1307 advanced air mobility infrastructure bill. This bill requires ADOT to develop a statewide plan or update the state's aviation plan to include vertiports and electric aircraft charging stations, as well as the infrastructure needs to support advances in aviation technology. Advanced air mobility is and will continue to be a priority of the Council's to ensure Arizona is positioned to be one of the states leading in innovation in this area. Additionally, the Council supported the creation of the Office of Defense Innovation within the Arizona Commerce Authority. That office was included in the provisions of the budget deal.

The Council also actively supported a bill focused on ensuring Axon was able to build its headquarter campus here. While there were a couple bills dealing with this issue, ultimately it was Carroll's SB 1543 ancillary use; international headquarters campus that was signed into law.

The Council also continued its advocacy of clean and renewable energy and worked hard to defeat HB 2223 relating to wind farm restrictions, HB 2527 relating to restricting renewable energy facilities being approved to replace other generation, SB 1119 that restricted the residential utilities consumer office scope, and SB 1309 restricting renewables from being considered as alternatives to support the power grid needs. All of these bills would have all had negative impacts on the solar industry in Arizona. The Council supported HB 2033 requiring all jurisdictions to use an automated permitting platform to speed up the permitting process for solar energy devices, which was kept from a final vote.

The Council continued to fight for funding the state's P-20 education system, and supported efforts to increase funding in the K-12 system and funding for the Arizona community colleges and Arizona Promise Program.

Recap of the 2026 Legislative Session

The 2026 legislative session dealt with many challenges in progressing the Council's pro-technology agenda. The main issue was the state facing a budget deficit exceeding \$1 billion over three years, mostly tied to the implementation of the federal HRI (Big Beautiful Bill). The top priority of the legislative session was the creation of a Computer Science Proficiency Seal for student's diplomas. One of the consistent priorities of the Council is to ensure ALL students have access to computer science classes in the future. Rep. Justin Wilmeth agreed with this goal and sponsored this year's bill, HB 2764, which helps to recognize students who are proficient in

computer science and gives schools the opportunity to highlight this pathway opportunity for students. It is the Council's hope that more schools will want to ensure they, too, can offer this pathway to students and provide the curriculum to help them accomplish this, especially since the Department of Education has already adopted the computer science standards. Gov. Katie Hobbs signed this bill.

Throughout the session, the Council stayed true to its original priorities, which included looking for opportunities that support economic development programs proven to work for the state; consistently,



equitably and sustainably fund the state's P-20 education system; positively impact the diversity, equity and inclusion of Arizona's workforce and leadership; advance energy policy that prioritizes clean and renewable energy use; and expand Arizona's STEM education.

The Council continued to advocate economic development incentives and programs. Another one of the Council's legislative priorities was Rep. Michael Carbone's HB 4026, which increased the aggregate cap on the payments to local jurisdictions to reimburse the cost of public infrastructure improvements for the benefit of a manufacturing facility. This bill was important for Arizona's maintaining the ability to attract manufacturing to the state since the current cap was met with all the existing projects in the pipeline. Ultimately, the bill in that form did not pass. However, the cap was increased in the budget by \$50 million a year for three years, raising the cap from \$200 million to \$350 million. Another economic development-related bill supported and taken into consideration was the establishment of the C-PACE Program, which would provide commercial property assessed capital expenditure financing for eligible improvements. This bill, however, did not make it across the finish line.

Clean energy and air quality were other large priorities, which included stopping several legislative proposals that were introduced. Some of the bills we were able to help defeat were HB 2267 that would have declared utility-scale wind or solar farms located within four miles of residential property a public nuisance, HB HB2338 that would have required a unanimous vote by boards of supervisors in counties with less than 500,000 persons to approve a solar or wind project, and HB 2918 that would have changed the valuation of renewable energy and storage equipment to 100% of depreciated cost instead of 20%.

The Council had several other policy wins in 2026 focused on retaining the data center tax incentive (although a three-year moratorium was implemented), supporting advanced mathematic course placement for students, updating emission reduction credit statutes to support manufacturing growth, continuation of the Arizona Commerce Authority and protecting the research institutions in

the state. Other areas such as nuclear energy, STEM education and advanced air mobility will be areas that the Council remains committed to working on in upcoming sessions.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN

The success of the Council's agenda could not be accomplished without the support of the legislators who are willing to fight to advance the priorities that have helped Arizona's business and technology environment thrive. Below we give special recognition to those incumbents who have been champions for the technology industry and the Council's priorities. While several of those members are highlighted in the endorsement process above, there are also several who are not running for reelection – at least not at the Legislature – who deserve some special recognition and a show of appreciation. While we do not always agree on everything, these members fought to advance the Council's agenda during their tenure.

Below are some of those key legislators who deserve special thanks for their commitment to helping Arizona's technology industry thrive:

SEN. LELA ALSTON
SEN. FLAVIO BRAVO
SEN. FRANK CARROLL
SEN. TIM DUNN
SEN. BRIAN FERNANDEZ
SEN. DAVID GOWAN
SEN. VINCE LEACH
SEN. CATHERINE MIRANDA
SEN. JANAE SHAMP
SEN. TJ SHOPE
REP. WALT BLACKMAN
REP. SELINA BLISS
REP. MICHAEL CARBONE
REP. JANEEN CONNOLLY
REP. LUPE CONTRERAS
REP. LUPE DIAZ

REP. NANCY GUTIERREZ
REP. ALMA HERNANDEZ
REP. CONSUELO HERNANDEZ
REP. LYDIA HERNANDEZ
REP. SARAH LIGUORI
REP. DAVID LIVINGSTON
REP. CHRIS LOPEZ
REP. TERESA MARTINEZ
REP. QUANG NGUYEN
REP. MICHELLE PENA
REP. TONY RIVERO
REP. JAMES TAYLOR
REP. STACEY TRAVERS
REP. MYRON TSOSIE
REP. KEVIN VOLK
REP. JEFF WENINGER
REP. JULIE WILLOUGHBY
REP. JUSTIN WILMETH

In Conclusion

We thank the Arizona Technology Council's Public Policy Committee, whose members helped vet legislative candidates and develop the content for the 2026 Vote TechSmart guide. For questions regarding this guide or the Council's work, please contact Council President and CEO **Steven G. Zylstra** 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 over 750 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 four targeted areas of technology commercialization and development, workforce development, supply-chain development and capital formation. The Committee, along with Council staff, works 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.



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