



ARIZONA
TECHNOLOGY
COUNCIL

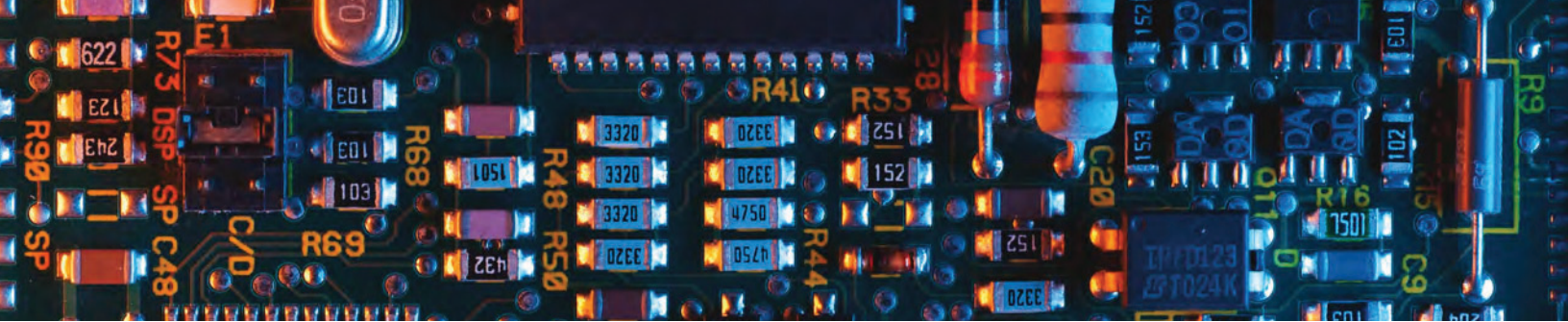
a place to connect and grow



2022

Vote TechSmart

AZTECHCOUNCIL.ORG



Vote TechSmart



The Vote TechSmart guide is a biennial resource produced by the Arizona Technology Council to provide our members, local elected officials, 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 2022 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 over 50 incumbent and non-incumbent candidates over a six-day period, asking important questions on behalf of the technology industry. The committee carefully selected 20 bills (11 bills from the 2021 legislative session and nine from the 2022 legislative session) to determine which legislators showed a commitment to the Council member industries and issues. Those bills dealt with economic development incentive program extensions; creating a statewide science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) ecosystem; business protections during a public health pandemic; 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, visit 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 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 members, local elected officials, friends 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.



ARIZONA TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

2022 ENDORSEMENTS

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 1

State Senate: No endorsements.

House of Representatives: **Quang Nguyen (R)** showed himself to be a thoughtful legislator during his first term. While he is one of the more conservative members, he also understands the importance of key investments in certain sectors of our economy, especially supporting our military installments and companies. He supports a lower tax burden for all Arizonans, as well as businesses being free from burdensome regulations, resulting in a strong state economy.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 2

State Senate: **Steve Kaiser (R)** is a business owner and veteran who has proven to be a strong advocate for workforce development during his first term in the Legislature. He has been a champion for STEM education and has sponsored several pieces of legislation advancing workforce development. He also has focused on career and technical education legislation, being one of the legislators leading the charge on fourth-year funding for career and technical education districts (CTEDs) and innovative programs to ensure access to adult education.

House of Representatives: **Justin Wilmeth (R)** has proven himself to be a rising star during his first term as a pro-business, pro-technology conservative. He has advocated for and supported policies to ensure Arizona advances innovation through action like sponsoring the Cryptocurrency and Blockchain Study. He is also a huge advocate for trade and has championed securing funding for trade offices with key trading partners for Arizona and ensuring international commerce continues to flow through our state.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 3

State Senate: **John Kavanagh (R)** has a proven record of public service as a conservative leader in the Legislature and has held an open door to technology stakeholders across the state. He has helped several significant economic reforms make it across the finish line to make Arizona more competitive, reduce burdensome regulation and incentivize more economic development in the state with high-paying, 21st-century jobs to ensure Arizona is a better place to live, do business and raise a family than when he started.

House of Representatives: **Nicole Cantelme (R)** is a born and raised Arizonan who has a strong background in education and technology. As a special education teacher, she has witnessed the need for more advancement in innovation in education to solve challenging issues. She is very supportive of STEM education opportunities and supports policies that help ensure we have the necessary talent available to attract more business. She understands the importance of proven economic development incentive programs that show the return on the investment helps maintain or increase Arizona's competitiveness.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 4

State Senate: **Christine Marsh (D)** is running for re-election in the Senate but is facing another incumbent due to redistricting. As a teacher for more than three decades, education is her top priority. She continues to try to find ways to improve education funding overall, and more specifically in key areas like STEM and CTEDs. She also has been supportive of certain economic development programs when the returns on investments prove that the taxpayers end up being the winners and the state has more funding for other key priorities.

House of Representatives: **Matt Gress (R)** is running for the Legislature for the first time but is no stranger to putting in work at the Capitol. With his past as a Joint Legislative Budget Committee analyst then the state's budget director, he has an in-depth understanding of the state's budget priorities and needs. He wants to continue a low-tax environment with limited regulations that has led to Arizona's current economic makeup. He supports investments in infrastructure (i.e., roads, water, broadband) and key economic programs that ensure safeguards to benefit Arizona taxpayers.

House of Representatives: **Maria Syms (R)** is a former legislator who has supported programs that support startups, innovation and economic development, which helped set up Arizona's economy to thrive when several others struggled over the past couple of years. She understands transportation is key to Arizona's competitiveness and as such needs to encourage local, national and international trade. Education is one of her top priorities, especially programs such as East Valley Institute of Technology that feature STEM programming and help prepare students to secure high-paying, rewarding jobs.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 5

State Senate: **Lela Alston (D)** has served the community at the Legislature for many years and her pragmatic and thoughtful approach to legislation has earned her respect from members of both parties. Education and affordable housing have long been her passion and focus, but she also has been a strong supporter of initiatives such as STEM and economic development programs that lead to high-quality, high-paying jobs for her constituents. She continuously advocates for increased funding of public education and CTEDs to ensure families in her district will have access to more opportunities in the future.

House of Representatives: **Jennifer Longdon (D)** has proven herself to be a thoughtful leader in the Democratic caucus that can help get her caucus members' initiatives accomplished. She does not shy away from issues and works diligently to ensure the voices of her constituents are heard and that Arizona is equitable and accessible for all. She is very supportive of an education system that helps meet workforce needs through public education, career and technical education (CTE), STEM and community colleges that help all youth and transitioning adults. She also supports programs that benefit the people of Arizona and ensure the workforce has high-quality, high-paying jobs.

House of Representatives: **Dr. Amish Shah (D)** has proven himself to be a legislator who works tirelessly to ensure all his constituents have access to quality health care and economic opportunities. As a physician, he knows what it means to advocate for his patients, and he has taken that same determination into his work at the Legislature. He has been a big supporter of STEM, understands the importance of targeted investments that have proven to pay dividends to Arizona's taxpayers and has been supportive of several Council initiatives regarding education, health care and innovation.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 6

State Senate: **Theresa Hatathlie (D)** has proved herself to be a thoughtful representative of the tribal nations in her district since her appointment this session and focuses on several issues those communities face. From education and criminal justice reform to mental health, Hatathlie has worked to improve the lives of Arizonans living on reservations.

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

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 7

State Senate: No endorsements.

House of Representatives: **David Cook (R)** has proven himself to be a strong advocate fighting for the needs of rural Arizona. During his time in the House, he has been a supporter of workforce development and education, especially STEM in rural Arizona, and important issues such as water. He has been a supporter of key Council priorities and has advocated for more economic development programs and resources focused on rural Arizona, working hard to bring high-quality, high-paying jobs to his district. He also has worked to have the state budget include payments towards the state's debt, setting Arizona up for a steady financial standing in the future.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 8

State Senate: No endorsements.

House of Representatives: No endorsements.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 9

State Senate: **Tyler Pace (R)** has shown himself to be a champion during his time at the Legislature. As an entrepreneur, he understands the importance of having policies that support businesses instead of creating burdens for companies to start and grow here. He has been supportive of many of the Council's priorities and has been instrumental in stopping legislation that would have interfered with private business owners' rights. He has a passion for health care and in the recent session strived to ensure Arizonans have access to services such as increased postpartum coverage.

House of Representatives: **Lorena Austin (D)** is a rare fifth generation Arizonan who has advocated for marginalized communities for most of her career. She has a strong background in affordable housing and sees that more needs to be done so a stable environment exists for families facing increased rent or homelessness. Another top priority for Austin is increasing funding in STEM education, including adult education or looping, so that not only students in our K-12 schools but also adults have more career training to prepare for Arizona's rapidly growing technology sector.

House of Representatives: **Seth Blattman (D)** is a small business owner who understands the importance of sustainable economic growth. He believes we need to enhance the quality of public education Arizonans receive and implement infrastructure that can support the growing technology industry. He wants to ensure there is a 21st century workforce ready for the economic boom the state is experiencing. His background in running his family's small manufacturing business helps him understand the importance of programs that propel innovation, if done fairly and equitably.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 10

State Senate: **Rusty Bowers (R)** has shown himself to be a thoughtful leader as speaker of the House during very challenging recent years. He has proven that he will stand up for what he believes is right even when it is not popular. He is a conservative member who supports lowering the overall tax burden of Arizonans and keeping government out of the way of business. He also sponsored recent legislation to ensure no Arizonan would face discrimination in the workplace or housing, which has long been a priority of the Council.

House of Representatives: No endorsements.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 11

State Senate: No endorsements.

House of Representatives: **Marcelino Quiñonez (D)** was appointed to fill a vacancy created by a resignation. He has been a welcome addition to the Legislature with his thoughtful approach to legislation. As an educator, he understands the importance of ensuring all students have access to a quality education. He also understands the importance of trade. He supports measures that ensure companies can grow and compete, which in turn strengthens our economy and provides citizens with the opportunity to thrive in vibrant and successful communities.

House of Representatives: **Wesley Leasy (D)** is a former Arizona Cardinals player who is ready to bring his grit and determination to the Arizona Legislature. He understands the importance of a high-quality education system to ensure a high-quality talent pool, both of which create a strong foundation for a vibrant and successful economy. He supports ensuring a competitive tax environment and programs to grow the high-tech and biotech industries here in Arizona, creating quality jobs for Arizonans of all backgrounds.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 12

State Senate: **David Richardson (R)** has firsthand knowledge of the challenges that entrepreneurs face as a local founder of biosciences startups and would be a good addition to the Legislature to give the technology industry a louder voice in the process. He believes that it is the job of legislators to be visionary and not reactionary, and constantly look for ways to strategically invest in programs with meaningful return on investment for Arizona taxpayers, such as workforce training, education and economic development.

House of Representatives: **Jim Chaston (R)** is a certified public accountant and would be a welcome addition at the Legislature with his understanding of how to keep a state's economy thriving. He would prioritize investing in infrastructure and technology to ensure companies can move their goods and services effectively while keeping taxes low. He also supports targeted economic development programs and STEM education in our K-12 and postsecondary educational institutions to support our workforce needs.

House of Representatives: **Stacey Travers (D)** 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 champions broadband access, so Arizonans have access to remote working capabilities to continue companies' 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.

House of Representatives: **Ajlan Kurdoglu (D)** is an engineer and small business owner who immigrated here and achieved his American dream and wants to help create an environment where all Arizonans can achieve theirs. He supports programs that would bring more economic prosperity and development to all Arizona communities, including data-backed economic development programs and STEM-related education programs. He has a great vision to make Arizona more attractive, especially when it comes to affordable housing, through connecting more Americans with high-quality jobs here.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 13

State Senate: **JD Mesnard (R)** has always taken a measured approach to legislation. He has been a strong advocate for CTE programs to ensure Arizona's schools are preparing students for workforce needs. He supports reducing the size of government and a simplified tax code over more targeted tax incentives. He sponsored legislation reducing the corporate income tax to ensure Arizona remains attractive for business retention and attraction. He also commonly works with stakeholders to find solutions for controversial issues.

House of Representatives: Jennifer Pawlik (D) understands how closely a strong education system and the technology industry are linked to one another. As a teacher, she consistently makes education one of her top priorities and works to ensure students have access to STEM education across the entire state. With a technology corridor running through her district, she also understands the business needs of her community and supports economic development programs that attract and retain these businesses. She sees these businesses as future employers and cultivating a flourishing economy can only increase the budget, allowing for more investment in education and key infrastructure.

House of Representatives: Ron Hardin (R) is a former technology executive who understands the needs and demands facing the technology industry. He has a technology background with five years of state service as a chief information officer at the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality with stints at SAP, Allied Signal and Motorola. His priority areas of focus are on economic development, education, infrastructure (especially transportation) and public safety. He hopes to be a champion of providing access to capital for small businesses and startups and plans to reduce barriers to the success for businesses of all sizes. His goal is to strengthen workforce development policies through expanded public-private partnerships, collaborative grant programs and workforce training systems that aid in the recruitment, development and retention of Arizona's thriving workforce.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 14

State Senate: No endorsements.

House of Representatives: No endorsements.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 15

State Senate: No endorsements.

House of Representatives: Neal Carter (R) was appointed to the Legislature due to the passing of Frank Pratt. Carter brings with him a legal background and is committed to ensuring investment in Arizona's infrastructure needs to support the companies already here and those Arizona is attracting. He is supportive of collaboration with community colleges and other innovative solutions for the increasing workforce needs of the technology industry. He also strives to ensure Arizona has a low tax burden to allow citizens 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 who is willing to put in the work to continue improving the business environment for Arizona and works across the aisle to get his initiatives accomplished. He is a strong advocate for education and health care. He also has been instrumental in stopping legislation that would have interfered with private business rights and getting the state to complete the widening of Interstate 10 between Phoenix and Tucson.

House of Representatives: Teresa Martinez (R) was appointed to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Bret Roberts. She is a conservative member who values economic development and is a fierce advocate for the necessary infrastructure to support businesses and their commerce needs. She values collaboration of stakeholders to ensure the state's needs are met in a thoughtful manner and address the concerns of those impacted. She is passionate about serving her community, working to ensure economic opportunities are brought to her district and the state.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 17

State Senate: Vince Leach (R) has a thoughtful approach to how he legislates. During his time at the Legislature, he has protected taxpayers and ensured Arizona has a business landscape ripe for economic development. Although not a fan of many targeted tax incentives, he is open to listening and has been a supporter of the business community through reduction in business taxes and putting money back in taxpayer pockets.

House of Representatives: No endorsements.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 18

State Senate: Morgan Abraham (D) is an intelligence officer in the U.S. Army and an affordable housing developer in Tucson who was appointed to fill a vacancy due to a resignation. His desire to serve stems from wanting to provide future generations with a strong public education system and the economic opportunities that follow. He supports increased funding in education, including higher ed, to ensure technology companies have access to skilled workers. He also supports investments in key economic development programs and infrastructure to support the growing economy.

House of Representatives: Chris Mathis (D) was another appointee who was a welcome addition to the Legislature. He is an attorney from Tucson who listens to the facts and data when making policy decisions. He has been a quiet voice this year at the Legislature and has shown himself to be a pragmatic legislator looking for solutions for his constituents. He has been supportive of education and economic development initiatives to help bring jobs to his district and ensure there is a pipeline of trained workers to meet that demand.

House of Representatives: Nathan Davis (D) is a born and raised Tucsonan who is a former teacher in the Tucson Unified School District and is now a small business owner. Davis understands the need to build a public education system that is well-funded and invests in STEM education opportunities for every student. He is also a strong supporter of using technology to protect the environment, conserve our water resources and expand on innovation in solar or other renewables. He understands that small businesses are the backbone to the economy and supports programs to ensure that backbone is strong and there is a pipeline of talented workers for them.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 19

State Senate: David Gowan (R) has proven himself to be a champion for the business community. As the Appropriations chair, he 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 been instrumental in extending key economic development tools essential to the growth of the technology industry during his tenure and supports lowering the tax burden on businesses and reducing red tape that companies may face.

House of Representatives: No endorsements.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 20

State Senate: No endorsements.

House of Representatives: 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, health care, education 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.

House of Representatives: Andrés Cano (D) has shown to have an understanding and appreciation for the investments that the technology industry makes in Arizona. He supports increasing funding for K-12, community colleges and universities to prepare a future workforce and supports

programs that result in economic development, financial benefits to taxpayers and jobs for Arizonans. He is also passionate about affordable housing to help ensure Arizonans have access to a basic structure to provide for their families.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 21

State Senate: **Rosanna Gabaldón (D)** is running for re-election in the Senate and has shown herself to be a friend of the Council. Her legislative priorities include water sustainability, public education and economic development. She has been supportive of several of the Council's 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 economic development.

House of Representatives: **Stephanie Stahl Hamilton (D)** has served her district since 2020 and her thoughtful approach led her to be appointed to the state Senate in 2021 when there was a vacancy due to a resignation. She believes the best investment that can be made for Arizona's future is to invest in the education of children, including high-quality preschool. She is also passionate about the environment, with a mindset for sustainability, and has proven to be a defensive champion on clean energy and water conservation issues during her tenure.

House of Representatives: **Consuelo Hernandez (D)** has a passion for serving her community, which seems to run in the family as she is the third of the Hernandez siblings who has held office and served constituents. She has served on the Sunnyside Unified School District board and has mentored and helped at-risk youth in her area, including DACA students. She is a champion of increasing investments in infrastructure and creating and supporting policies that would help Arizona to become a national clean-tech industry leader. In addition to creating an environment for small businesses to thrive in Pima County, public health initiatives are another area to which she has committed her time.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 22

State Senate: **Diego Espinoza (D)** is running for the Senate after terming out in the House. As a small business owner, he understands the effects of regulation and taxation, as well as the challenges businesses and communities have faced due to the pandemic. 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 while ensuring that businesses are also good community partners.

House of Representatives: **Lupe Contreras (D)** has been a strong leader in his caucus for many years and is running for the House after being the assistant minority leader in the Senate. He is a great advocate for education, business and his community. 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. He is also known for taking a balanced approach to protecting Arizona citizens and encouraging economic development.

House of Representatives: **Lorenzo Sierra (D)** is seeking re-election in the House. He has proven himself to be a fierce advocate for his community and fights to ensure his constituents' voices are heard at the Legislature. Much like his district seatmates, he takes a balanced approach and has supported much of 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. He has fought hard for pre-K programs to help set students up for success from an early age.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 23

State Senate: **Brian Fernandez (D)** is another newly appointed member to the Legislature. Having a technology background as a software developer, he understands the industry is essential to Arizona's healthy and thriving economy. He is supportive of more funding for STEM education and community colleges as they are a pathway to addressing the access to talent that Arizona's innovative companies need to be successful.

House of Representatives: No endorsements.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 24

State Senate: **César Chávez (D)** is running for the Senate after serving several years in the House. He 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 the taxpayers. He has been instrumental in getting some pivotal economic development initiatives across the finish line, resulting in high-paying and high-quality jobs for his constituents. He is passionate about ensuring his community will have educational and economic opportunities in the future.

House of Representatives: No endorsements.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 25

State Senate: **Sine Kerr (R)** has proven herself to be a thoughtful legislator who is truly open to listening and learning about the issues. She understands the importance of government not creating roadblocks or burdensome regulations since she also runs a family business. 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 prior sessions. She also advocates for developing a STEM ecosystem throughout Arizona, especially in rural areas.

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. Addressing Arizona's impending water crisis is one of his top priorities to ensure Arizona's economy can continue to grow and flourish while still protecting the rural way of life.

House of Representatives: **Joel John (R)** has been a champion for the Council, including sponsoring Arizona's STEM ecosystem proposal and supporting several Council priorities to ensure quality jobs are available in his district. Education is his passion, and he has been a fierce advocate of increasing funding in the public school system and helpful in stopping legislation that would have unintended negative consequences for Arizona's students. Ensuring all students have access to high-quality education that leads to high-paying jobs is a top priority of his.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 26

State Senate: No endorsements.

House of Representatives: **Flavio Bravo (D)** is a born and raised Arizonan who has focused his career on assisting immigrants, particularly DACA students. He understands the housing and economic policy challenges the state is facing. He is very supportive of STEM education and hopes to help work to fix the state's funding formula, as well as increasing the availability of affordable housing so quality teachers are encouraged to stay in Arizona. He is supportive of 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.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 27

State Senate: No endorsements.

House of Representatives: **Kevin Payne (R)** has proven to be a strong voice for small business. As a small business owner himself, he understands what industry needs from government and, more importantly, what they do not need. He has worked to reduce burdensome regulations and has a history of supporting the Council's technology agenda. He has been a great advocate for his community and his thoughtful approach to each legislative proposal based on its merits is needed at the Legislature. As the chairman of the Military Affairs and Public Safety committee, he works

tirelessly to support our first responders and advocate for investment in transportation and communication infrastructure.

House of Representatives: Ben Toma (R) has proven himself as a leader in tax policy by helping lead the charge for tax cuts for all Arizonans and businesses here. He also has worked to streamline business taxation and eliminate regulatory burdens and second-chance legislation to ensure individuals leaving the justice system have a chance to contribute to the economy and provide for their families. He understands the importance of key economic development programs that are proven to have great returns on taxpayer investments and has sponsored several proposals to ensure Arizona's economic success. He is a thoughtful leader who works hard for his constituents and their families.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 28

State Senate: Frank Carroll (R) takes an innovative approach to crafting legislation and has sponsored legislation to address workforce development issues in Arizona. He shows a real understanding of the technology community and its impact on economic development. He looks at the entire picture before making a decision and has been supportive of the technology agenda. Ensuring Arizona's infrastructure needs are being met has been a top priority as he has advocated for key investments and a long-term strategic plan to address Arizona's growth and transportation needs.

House of Representatives: David Livingston (R) has been a long-time supporter of the technology agenda and has worked to reduce regulations during his tenure in the Legislature. He has been serving in the Senate but is now running for the House seat. He understands the importance of programs that incentivize the behaviors to not only grow, attract and retain business but also increase the funds in the state's coffers to pay for other key priorities. He also has been an advocate for paying down the state debt to ensure Arizona is in a strong economic position, especially if a recession happens as many are expecting.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 29

State Senate: Joanne Osborne (R) is a small business owner who truly understands how policies can affect Arizona's businesses. She has served her community for several years, starting at the Goodyear City Council then the state House of Representatives and now through running for the Senate. She has proven herself to be a thoughtful legislator and has supported the Council's key initiatives. Having been the Health chair for the past two years, she has strived to maintain the delicate balance of allowing for increased access to health care while not further increasing the costs for companies providing those benefits. She also has advocated for innovative solutions for workforce development, especially in the health sector.

House of Representatives: Trey Terry (R) is a common-sense conservative with a passion for education and wants to see an economic climate that fosters innovation and growth. He is an Arizona native and veteran who served our country on several missions. He continued that service as a member of the Agua Fria Union High School District Governing Board and now wants to continue at the Legislature. Workforce development is one of his top priorities with an emphasis on STEM, CTE and vocational programs, as well as supporting the infrastructure necessary for Arizona's growth.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 30

State Senate: Sonny Borrelli (R) is running for re-election and is the current Senate majority whip. He has worked closely with the Council over the years and supported policies that has helped Arizona become more attractive for the technology industry. He works hard to bring economic development opportunities to the state, especially in rural areas. He has supported initiatives to increase STEM and vocational education opportunities for students.

House of Representatives: Leo Biasiucci (R) is a passionate legislator who showed strong leadership as the current House majority whip. He has a strong record of support for the technology agenda and programs that help to bring economic opportunity to the state, especially in rural areas. He has advocated to ensure state processes are utilizing technological advancements. He also has been a vocal critic of human trafficking and those abusing Arizona's vulnerable populations.

RECAP OF THE 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

There were several key successes in the 2021 legislative session that helped further advance Arizona as a place where technology companies can thrive. The Council's top legislative priority was extending the Small Business Capital Investment Incentive, or Angel Investment Tax Credit. SB 1124 extended the deadline for the Arizona Commerce Authority to authorize tax credits for capital investment in a qualified small business for an additional 10 years.

The Council also continued its advocacy for clean and renewable energy and worked hard to have legislators kill HB 2248, SB 1175 and HB 2737, which attempted to strip the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) of its ability to set policy surrounding clean energy and electric vehicles. The Council also helped to defeat legislation that would have allowed legislators to leverage the state attorney general anytime they disagreed with an ACC decision.

The Council continued to fight for funding for the state's P-20 education system by advocating HB 2024, which allows CTEDs to include students enrolled in internship courses as part of its student count, and HB 2124, which allows students enrolled in approved CTED programs to generate an average daily membership for instruction received at any time. In addition, the Council successfully advocated for a large investment in K-12 education, including fourth-year funding for CTEDs and funding for special education, gifted and low-income students.

The Council had several other policy wins in 2021 focused on public health, autonomous vehicles, broadband and blockchain.

RECAP OF THE 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2022 legislative session was a prolonged one that dealt many challenges in progressing the Council's pro-technology agenda. Throughout the session, the Council stayed true to its original priorities, which included looking for opportunities to cultivate a diverse, equitable and statewide STEM ecosystem; consistently, equitably and sustainably funding the state's P-20 education system; supporting efforts to positively impact the diversity, equity and inclusion of Arizona's workforce and leadership; working collaboratively with the ACC and the Legislature to advance energy policy that prioritizes clean and renewable energy use; and supporting economic development programs that have proven to work for Arizona.

During this legislative session, the Legislature passed the largest investment in public K-12 education in Arizona's history, with close to \$1 billion being invested. The Council was supportive of this investment and getting it across the finish line. Additionally, the Council supported raising the cap on transaction privilege tax distribution to a city, town or county for public infrastructure improvements specifically surrounding manufacturing facilities. This increases the ability of local jurisdictions to meet the necessary infrastructure needs to better attract manufacturing facilities. HB 2871 doubled the cap from \$50 million to \$100 million.

The Council continued to advocate for career and technical education and STEM education to ensure Arizona's technology companies have a pipeline of trained talent to meet the various levels of employees they need. Several bills, including HB 2017, HB 2034 and HB 2118, were signed by Gov. Doug Ducey and will continue Arizona's innovative approach to meeting the workforce and education needs. Additionally, there was restoration of all the community college STEM funding in the signed budget.

Tax policy is always a concern of the Council. There were two pieces of legislation passed this year to lower the tax burden on Arizona's companies that the Council supported. HB 2822 changed the valuation factor for personal property that is classified as class one, class two or class six property to 2.5% instead of the previous 25% to 89%. SB 1093 reduced the assessed valuation of class one property for property tax purposes to 15.5% in 2026 and 15% in 2027 and thereafter. This continues the reductions from 18% in a stepdown approach that was adopted in the previous legislative session.

The Council had several other policy wins in 2022 focused on public health, electrification of school buses, broadband, urban air mobility and hydrogen study committee.

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. While several of those members are highlighted in the endorsement process above, there are several who are not running for re-election — 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 a special thanks:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Rep. Walt Blackman
Rep. Regina Cobb
Rep. Domingo DeGrazia
Rep. Daniel Hernandez
Rep. Jennifer Jermaine
Rep. Robert Meza
Rep. Michelle Udall
Rep. Jeff Weninger

SENATE

Sen. Sean Bowie
Sen. Paul Boyer
Sen. Karen Fann
Sen. Rick Gray
Sen. Lisa Otondo
Sen. Rebecca Rios
Sen. Victoria Steele



IN CONCLUSION

We thank the Arizona Technology Council's Public Policy Committee, whose members helped to vet legislative candidates and develop the content for the 2022 Vote TechSmart guide. For questions regarding this guide or the Council's work, please contact Council President + CEO Steven G. Zylstra by phone at (480) 353-9277 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 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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