

2019

WESTMARC LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

6751 N. Sunset Blvd. Suite 210
Glendale, AZ 85305



Fifteen Communities...One Voice

WESTMARC Communities - *Fifteen Communities...One Voice*

Avondale	Peoria	Buckeye	West Phoenix
El Mirage	Surprise	Gila Bend	Tolleson
Glendale	Wickenburg	Litchfield Park	Youngtown
Goodyear	Sun City	Sun City West	

Intent & Purpose:

This legislative agenda is intended to guide conversation and position statements of WESTMARC during the 2019 Legislative Session. If proposed legislation requires further clarity in terms of establishing an official position or providing for action, it will be brought forward for consideration through the existing operating policies and procedures. All position statements or actions regarding proposed legislation will be communicated to WESTMARC's members.

Economic Development

- WESTMARC supports efforts to enhance the range of economic development funding mechanisms available in Arizona.
- WESTMARC supports governments' ability to provide economic development incentives.
- WESTMARC supports the protection of existing Economic Development tools such as the foreign trade zone and opportunity zone benefits that attract business to Arizona.
- WESTMARC supports efforts to develop and promote a skilled and knowledgeable workforce.

Education

- WESTMARC supports high expectations for all Arizona students via rigorous academic standards, an aligned assessment and a meaningful accountability system.
- WESTMARC supports sustainable, long term funding mechanisms that provide an appropriate level of resources for K-12 education and teacher compensation.
- WESTMARC supports appropriate funding for Joint Technical Education District and Career Technical Education programs.
- WESTMARC supports appropriate funding and fiscal management for, the Maricopa County Community College District.
- WESTMARC supports strengthening universities with a stable funding model to ensure access for qualified students, world-class research capabilities and excellent workforce preparation.
- WESTMARC supports the efforts of Achieve60AZ to reach the statewide attainment goal of 60% by the year 2030.

Fiscal Responsibility/Taxation

- WESTMARC supports clear, understandable, and practicable tax and fiscal policies that will retain and grow existing business, attract new capital investments and promote job growth in Arizona.
- WESTMARC supports the preservation of state shared revenues at current levels and opposes any reduction or cap.
- WESTMARC opposes rollovers and sweeps of dedicated funds as a mechanism for balancing the budget.

Health Care

- WESTMARC supports appropriate reimbursement of healthcare providers.
- WESTMARC supports continuing and improving access to healthcare.
- WESTMARC supports efforts to grow a diverse, efficient, and effective healthcare system.
- WESTMARC supports available treatment and support for behavioral health and substance abuse issues.

Infrastructure

- WESTMARC supports ongoing efforts to develop short and long term funding plans to meet Arizona's infrastructure needs.
- WESTMARC opposes sweeps of Highway User Revenue Funds, Prop 400 Funds, State Aviation Funds and any other dedicated transportation funds.
- WESTMARC supports multimodal transit options for the West Valley.
- WESTMARC supports the planning and development of an efficient transportation system in the West Valley.
- WESTMARC recognizes that water is a finite resource and thus supports responsible water management practices and conservation efforts, including preservation of the 1980 Groundwater Management Act.
- WESTMARC supports appropriate action to ensure Arizona has an adequate supply of gasoline, broadband, electricity, natural gas, water and other critical resources.
- WESTMARC supports the protection of critical energy infrastructure, including generation, transmission, and distribution assets.
- WESTMARC supports a collaborative Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) that strengthens Arizona's supply of Colorado River water while not weakening our long-term water management.

Legal and Regulatory Affairs

- WESTMARC supports a pro-business environment that does not place undue burden on business.
- WESTMARC supports local governments as partners in economic development.

Military Preservation

- WESTMARC supports managed growth and development surrounding Luke Air Force Base and we strongly support existing state legislation and local ordinances that help to protect its long-term mission.

Quality of Life

- WESTMARC supports diverse opportunities for residents and visitors to experience culture, sports and entertainment that enrich the region for economic development growth.
- WESTMARC supports responsible growth with respect to preserving the natural environment and open spaces.
- WESTMARC supports the development and enhancement of events, venues and regional partnerships that provide opportunities for recreation, health and wellness.