



The Arizona Voters' Agenda

2024 REPORT



The Arizona Voters' Agenda

Centering the Voices of Voters in Our Elections

Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA) is dedicated to centering the voices of Arizonans in public dialogue. Every election cycle, CFA develops the Arizona Voters' Agenda from the results of two statewide public opinion surveys of likely Republican, Democratic, and independent/unaffiliated voters about their perspectives on the election and issues facing the state.

The Arizona Voters' Agenda reveals that voters across all demographics and political affiliations agree on more than they disagree, countering the narrative of polarization and division. It provides a data-driven foundation for issues of the greatest importance, illuminating big questions and big opportunities for anyone participating in our elections.

While Arizonans don't agree on everything, the first of two surveys for the 2024 Arizona Voters' Agenda shows that likely voters share significant common ground when it comes to critical issues such as education, immigration, housing, and state spending, as detailed in this report. The insights provide an opportunity to focus on voters' shared priorities and to ask candidates running for office how they plan to address the issues that matter to Arizonans but are often overlooked in public dialogue.

The Arizona Voters' Agenda is not about single-partisan issues where one group supports an issue, and another does not. To be included, a 50% or higher majority of all likely voters must show a "strong" level of agreement on the issue, and 50% or higher majorities of every political and age segment must show "strong" or "somewhat strong" agreement. This ensures the Arizona Voters' Agenda is truly representative and highlights areas of broad agreement.

We encourage all those who shape Arizona's future—including candidates, leaders, the media, and voters—to use the Arizona Voters' Agenda as a vital tool in fostering election discussions that engage the vast majority of voters and focus on their shared priorities.

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Key Insights on the Outlook of Arizona Voters

- 62% prefer candidates who are willing to work across the aisle to find bipartisan solutions
- 60% do not believe that current Arizona candidates are addressing their most important issues
- 52% are not confident that Arizona is prepared for future growth

2024 Agenda Items* By Topic



Education

Arizona voters prioritize education and show consensus support for tangible actions to enhance the overall quality and outcomes of education in the state.

96%

say every school deserves resources to deliver quality education that prepares every child

Policy Items	Strongly Support	Total Support
Ensure teachers are trained in the most effective approaches to teaching reading.	79%	94%
Ensure every student can access dual enrollment or other early college opportunities to earn college credit while in high school.	78%	93%
Private schools that receive state funding should be held to the same standards as public schools when it comes to financial reporting requirements, academic reporting requirements, and employment standards.	66%	80%
Increase funding for K-12 public education.	63%	79%
Increase need-based state financial aid to encourage more students to enroll in Arizona's public universities and community colleges after high school.	56%	77%

Value Statement	Strongly Support	Total Support
Every school should have the resources necessary to deliver quality education that prepares every child for the future, no matter their skin color, background, or zip code.	89%	96%

Immigration

Arizona voters across the political spectrum highlight immigration as a pressing issue and show support for practical solutions—potentially surprising given the recent national partisan debates on immigration.

82% want leaders to find bipartisan solutions to the humanitarian crisis at the southern border

Policy Items	Strongly Support	Total Support
Enact comprehensive immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship.	56%	77%
Value Statements	Strongly Support	Total Support
Immigration reform is important to our country and our economy. Mexico is Arizona's largest trade and tourism partner – we must prioritize creating a functioning border for commerce and immigration.	66%	89%
The current influx of thousands of migrants at the southern border is an international humanitarian and refugee crisis. Our leaders must work together to find a bipartisan solution to this problem.	62%	82%

Housing

Arizona voters show high levels of concern about housing issues. They strongly agree that more action from state and local governments is needed to address homelessness and ensure accessibility to housing that is affordable.

84% say rent prices are too high

Policy Items	Strongly Support	Total Support
Increase housing that is affordable in my community.	62%	78%
Value Statements	Strongly Support	Total Support
State and local government must do more to ensure that housing options are affordable and available to middle and low-income earners throughout the state.	59%	82%
State and local government must do more to make sure people who experience homelessness can access safe, affordable housing.	52%	81%

State Spending

When it comes to state spending, Arizona voters agree on investing in and preparing for future growth and don't want to cut back on vital services.

87%

say better planning and preparedness is needed to support growth

Policy Items	Strongly Oppose**	Total Oppose**
Cuts to K-12 Education to balance the state budget	73%	87%
Cuts to Public Safety to balance the state budget	64%	82%
Cuts to Healthcare to balance the state budget	61%	81%

Value Statements	Strongly Support	Total Support
A robust transportation infrastructure system, including investments in our freeways, streets, and transit throughout the State of Arizona, is critical to moving people, goods, and services throughout the state and essential to our long-term economic success.	60%	90%
Arizona is expected to reach 8 million residents by 2030 and 9 million by 2040. It will take higher levels of planning and preparedness to ensure we have the resources and infrastructure to support that growth and maintain our high quality of life.	57%	87%
Arizona families are struggling to find affordable and reliable childcare. Without dependable access to childcare, caregivers may miss work or leave the workforce altogether. Arizona should invest more in childcare assistance programs for qualifying families.	53%	77%

***While most items on the Agenda reflect widespread support for certain ideas, it is important to note that these items stand out for strong consensus in opposition—specifically, against certain proposed spending cuts.*

**Findings reflect the first of two surveys planned for the 2024 Arizona Voters' Agenda. Additional topics and findings will be released in September.*

What Didn't Make the Arizona Voters' Agenda?

The Arizona Voters' Agenda surveys ask about a wide array of issues and topics, and some items do not reach the level of agreement among likely voters required to be included, such as:

- The funding level of the ESA/voucher program
- Restricting the use of school restrooms and locker rooms by transgender students
- Reducing restrictions and regulations on affordable housing and multi-family developments
- Using money from the \$1.5 billion in Arizona's rainy-day fund to balance the state budget

Big Questions for Candidates and Leaders:

A Call to Action

The Arizona Voters' Agenda survey reveals critical consensus areas that raise important questions for our leaders and candidates to address the pressing issues identified by voters. We urge voters, the media, and political figures to drive meaningful discussions and engage in a productive and informative electoral process.



Education

1. How will you increase investments in K-12 funding as Arizona faces a budget deficit?
2. What should Arizona do to ensure every school has the resources needed to deliver quality education that prepares every child for the future?
3. What will you do to ensure more students succeed in reading and math?
4. How will you ensure that private schools receiving ESA/voucher state dollars will be held equally accountable to financial and performance requirements and employment standards as public schools?
5. How will you expand access to post-secondary education, including opportunities for dual enrollment for all students while in high school, and expanded need-based financial aid for students to attend colleges, universities, and trade schools?



Immigration

1. Arizonans want progress on immigration. Understanding that immigration policy is not solely determined at the state level, what actions will you advocate for at the federal level?
2. In light of broad agreement on the need for comprehensive immigration reform, what steps will you take to create a pathway to citizenship?
3. How do you propose to balance the humanitarian needs at the border with the imperative for a functioning border that supports commerce?
4. How do you define a functioning border for commerce and immigration?



Housing

1. What specific policies will you propose to make housing more accessible to middle and low-income earners?
2. How will you ensure that state and local governments take a more active role in addressing homelessness?
3. What measures will you propose to encourage the development of housing that is affordable, given the state's budget constraints?



State Spending

1. Voters strongly believe Arizona needs higher levels of planning and preparedness to ensure we have the resources and infrastructure to support projected growth and maintain a high quality of life. How are you planning to prepare for growth?
2. What are your plans to ensure that Arizona's infrastructure can support the state's anticipated growth, particularly in the context of a state budget deficit?
3. Acknowledging the critical role of transportation infrastructure and childcare in Arizona's economic success, how do you plan to prioritize these areas?
4. Arizona has to balance its budget. Voters want to invest in infrastructure and childcare programs and don't want to cut education, healthcare, or public safety. What do you think the state should do about the projected deficit?

About Center for the Future of Arizona

Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan "do-tank" that brings Arizonans together to create a stronger and brighter future for our state. Through survey research & reports, Arizona Progress Meters, and impact initiatives & programs, CFA listens to Arizonans to learn what matters most to them, shares trusted data about how Arizona is doing in those priority areas, brings critical issues to public attention, and works with communities and leaders to solve public problems. CFA leads impact initiatives and programs across the state and has deep and ongoing engagement in education, workforce development, and civic health, recognizing how essential these are to advancing economic prosperity, quality of life, and opportunity for all.

CFA is focused on bringing Arizonans together to realize The Arizona We Want, which is a shared vision of success centered on what matters most to Arizonans and how those priorities can shape a hopeful and more prosperous long-term future for the state. The Arizona Voters' Agenda is one more example of CFA's commitment to research efforts that identify what matters most to Arizonans across a range of critical issues. Data from the research can not only inform election discourse but also connect Arizonans by bridging perceived divides, mobilizing communities and leaders around shared priorities, and ultimately realizing progress on critical challenges.

About the Arizona Voters' Agenda

During every election cycle, Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA) develops the Arizona Voters' Agenda from the results of statewide public opinion surveys of Republican, Democratic, and independent/unaffiliated likely voters about their priorities for the state, views on key issues, and what they want their leaders to address. The promoted Voters' Agenda is based on where voters across all age groups and political affiliations agree.

Survey Methodology

The first of two Arizona Voters' Agenda surveys was conducted among likely voters ahead of the 2024 election, on March 4-11, 2024, with a random sample of 500 people. The poll surveyed likely Arizona 2024 General Election voters with a history of electoral participation and was balanced to model the likely turnout of voters across party, age, region, and gender. The live interview surveys of voters were conducted in English and Spanish by HighGround, Inc. to landline and cell phone users. Based on previous election trends, the partisan advantage was set at +4% GOP. The margin of error is $\pm 4.3\%$. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding. More details are available at arizonafuture.org/ava.

How Items from the Surveys Make the Arizona Voters' Agenda

The Arizona Voters' Agenda utilizes a rigorous agreement threshold that requires 50% or more strong agreement from all voters and 50% or more agreement across every political affiliation and age group. Learn more and see the detailed data across subgroups at arizonafuture.org/ava.

Detailed data, survey information,
downloadable resources, and more:

arizonafuture.org/ava



arizonafuture.org

541 E. Van Buren, Suite B-5, Phoenix, AZ 85004 | [in](#) [X](#) [f](#) [@arizonafuture](#)