



# 2026 Legislative Agenda

## Economic Development

- WESTMARC supports a pro-business environment that does not place undue burden on business.
- WESTMARC supports local governments as partners in economic development.
- WESTMARC supports protecting and expanding effective economic development tools, such as Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ), Opportunity Zone benefits, and the Government Property Lease Excise Tax (GPLET), and preserving state and local authority to implement incentives that attract and retain businesses.
- WESTMARC supports efforts to grow and expand a skilled and knowledgeable workforce aligned with the West Valley Pipeline workforce development strategy.
- WESTMARC supports workforce housing solutions that maintain local control of planning, zoning and sustainable community development.

## Education

- WESTMARC supports high expectations for all Arizona students via rigorous academic standards, an aligned assessment system and a fair, equitable and meaningful accountability system to measure academic progress.
- WESTMARC supports a referendum to permanently remove the Aggregate Expenditure Limit (AEL) for pre K-12 education, and the annual override of the AEL until such time as the voters approve the referendum.
- WESTMARC supports the expansion and extension of Proposition 123 for an additional 10 years to establish funding for early childhood education and increase funding for K-12 schools.
- WESTMARC supports a uniform system of reporting on public education spending of all education resource delivery systems (elected governance, appointed governance, ESAs and STOs for taxpayer transparency.)
- WESTMARC supports policies that fund school-based mental health services, social-emotional learning programs, and counseling resources.
- WESTMARC supports nationally competitive funding and sustainable, long-term investment in education spanning early childhood through K-12, including through

public-private partnerships. We support resources for educator compensation, recruitment and retention; high-quality preschool programs; accessible childcare services; parent education initiatives; all-day kindergarten; and comprehensive K-12 operational support.

- WESTMARC supports increased funding to strengthen and expand out-of-school time (OST) programs across Arizona, ensuring K-12 youth have safe, enriching spaces to learn, grow, and thrive outside of school hours.
- WESTMARC supports workforce market competitive funding for Career and Technical Education Districts (West-MEC) and Career Technical Education programs and excellent workforce participation.
- WESTMARC supports competitive funding and fiscal management for the Maricopa County Community College District.
- WESTMARC supports the post-secondary education systems to ensure access for qualified students, world class research capabilities, and excellent workforce preparation. We support the Arizona Board of Regents and Arizona's post-secondary institutions as they endeavor to grow the state's health care workforce, while accelerating leadership in bioscience, life science, and research. We support an enterprise model of operations and maintaining leading edge research infrastructure.
- WESTMARC supports reducing the amount of unfunded mandates to be tasked to our pre K-12 schools and any initiatives or efforts that advance the Arizona Education Progress Meter goals that culminate with Achieve 60AZ (the statewide attainment goal of 60% by the year 2030).

## Fiscal Responsibility/Taxation

- WESTMARC supports tax and fiscal policies that will retain and grow existing business, attract new capital investments, and promote job and responsible housing growth in Arizona.
- WESTMARC supports the preservation of state shared revenues and opposes any reduction or cap.
- WESTMARC opposes rollovers and sweeps of dedicated funds as a mechanism for balancing the budget.
- WESTMARC supports continuous improvement of Department of Revenue policies and procedures to ensure tax collection accuracy, management and ease of use by taxpayers.
- WESTMARC supports finding a revenue offset as a result of residential rental tax preemption.

## Infrastructure

- WESTMARC supports ongoing efforts to develop sustainable funding mechanisms to meet infrastructure needs.
- WESTMARC supports the planning and development of an efficient, multimodal transportation system — including microtransit — for the West Valley.
- WESTMARC supports the planning and construction efforts of I-11 as well as investments in key transportation corridors such as the US60, I-10, I-17, L101, L303, SR85 and SR30.
- WESTMARC supports responsible and innovative water management practices and conservation efforts, including preservation of the 1980 Groundwater Management Act.
- WESTMARC supports the expansion and deployment of broadband infrastructure to ensure all communities have access to fast reliable internet access.
- WESTMARC supports the protection and development of critical energy infrastructure, including generation, transmission, and distribution assets.
- WESTMARC supports the ongoing negotiations regarding Colorado River operating guidelines (reconsultation) and the pursuit of larger contributions from other Colorado River Basin States to conserve additional Colorado River water.
- WESTMARC supports state and federal investment in long-term water augmentation and conservation projects.
- WESTMARC supports responsible, strategic development and implementation of AI technologies that support workforce, business and economic development.

## Healthcare

- WESTMARC supports appropriate reimbursement of healthcare providers.
- WESTMARC supports continuing and improving access to healthcare and use of telehealth and other consumer friendly options.
- 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.
- WESTMARC supports policies that help keep healthcare workers in the state – through industry aligned training, recruitment, and housing – so communities across Arizona have access to the care they need.
- WESTMARC supports AZ Healthy Tomorrow initiative to expand medical, nursing, and allied health programs at Arizona’s public universities to support healthcare workforce development.

## Legal and Regulatory Affairs

- WESTMARC supports each individual community's (municipality and unincorporated communities) ability to maintain local control regarding planning, zoning, community development and fiscal decision making.

## 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.
- Support Arizona's military installations and defense industry by advancing policies that protect mission readiness, strengthen base-community partnerships, and enhance quality of life for service members and their families across the region.

## Quality of Life

- WESTMARC supports diverse opportunities for residents and visitors to experience arts, culture, sports, entertainment, food and aspirational retail that enrich the region for economic development and celebrate and enhance the uniqueness of the West Valley.
- 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.
- WESTMARC supports a balanced approach to regional homelessness including provision of services and enforcement.