

2026 DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATIVE REPORT

**ARIZONA SENATE
DEMOCRATS**



A MESSAGE TO ARIZONANS

In a divided government, Arizona Senate Democrats proved that unity delivers results.

The 2026 legislative session made one thing clear: leadership is measured by who you seek to protect.

From day one, Senate Democrats came together around one shared mission: building An Arizona We Can Afford. While too many Arizonans struggled with the rising cost of housing, healthcare, groceries, childcare, and utility bills, we stayed focused on lowering costs, protecting public education, defending healthcare, safeguarding our freedoms, and creating more opportunities for working families.

That focus never changed.

Many of the solutions we introduced were ignored because the Republican majority refused to work across the aisle. Instead of advancing policies that would make life more affordable, legislative Republicans repeatedly chose corporate tax giveaways, political distractions, and special interests over the everyday needs of Arizona families.

We didn't back down.

We negotiated where progress was possible, stood firm when our values were challenged, and stopped harmful legislation that would have made life harder for Arizonans. We secured meaningful victories that protected healthcare for approximately 40,000 Arizonans, defended public education, stopped new corporate tax giveaways, protected voting rights, safeguarded nutrition assistance for families from additional cuts, and continued fighting for Arizona's water future.

We fought to protect the programs and services that families depend on from healthcare and nutrition assistance to childcare, senior services, kinship care, and support for Arizonans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The contrast could not have been clearer. While Republicans talked about affordability, transparency, and accountability, they blocked commonsense reforms that would have lowered costs, brought oversight to the ESA voucher program, protected consumers, and held powerful interests accountable.

Senate Democrats remained focused on delivering solutions - not clickbaits.

This report tells that story. It highlights the fights we won, the harmful policies we stopped, and the work that continues as we build An Arizona We Can Afford, where working families come first, opportunity is within reach, and government works for the people, not powerful special interests.

LOWERING COSTS FOR WORKING FAMILIES

THE CHALLENGE

Arizona families continue to face rising costs for housing, healthcare, childcare, groceries, and utilities. At the same time, Republican leadership continued advancing tax breaks for billion-dollar corporations while asking working families to shoulder the burden.

Families should not have to work more, pay more, and get less.



OUR FIGHT

Senate Democrats made affordability the centerpiece of our agenda. We fought to ensure taxpayer dollars were invested in Arizona communities, not unnecessary corporate giveaways, and protected programs that help families keep food on the table, access healthcare, afford childcare, and stay financially stable.

RESULTS

- Secured the nation's largest three-year moratorium on new data center tax giveaways.
- Protected healthcare coverage for approximately 40,000 Arizonans through AHCCCS.
- Defended SNAP and other nutrition assistance programs that families rely on from additional cuts after Trump signed H.R. 1.
- Fought to include funding for summer school meals in the state's budget so that no child goes hungry.
- Protected investments supporting affordable housing and essential community services.
- Delivered targeted tax cuts for certain low-income workers traditionally overlooked.



RESULTS (cont.)

- Exempted certain income from taxes on overtime and tips, providing relief to workers who rely on extra hours or customer tips to make ends meet.
- Protected childcare assistance for approximately 21,000 low-income families.

PROTECTING ARIZONA FAMILIES FROM WASHINGTON'S APPROACH

Arizona families are already feeling the pressure of rising costs. The last thing they need is for Washington to make healthcare and basic assistance harder to access.

Federal legislation known as H.R. 1 cut programs millions of Americans rely on and is creating additional challenges for Arizona's healthcare and safety-net systems. 

Senate Democrats fought to protect AHCCCS, SNAP, TANF, and other critical programs from unnecessary barriers and cuts that Republicans tried to institute, even beyond those in H.R. 1.

Our Republican colleagues continue to push for a Washington-style approach that makes it harder for families to access the assistance they need. Senate Democrats believe Arizona should be doing the opposite: making it easier for families to get ahead.

Arizona families have made their priorities clear. They want affordable healthcare, food on the table, good jobs, and a chance to build a future, not more barriers and political distractions.

WHY IT MATTERS

Government should invest in Arizona families, not subsidize billion-dollar corporations. An Arizona We Can Afford means making sure families can afford the basics and protecting the programs that help them get there.

PROTECTING PUBLIC EDUCATION



THE CHALLENGE

Arizona's students deserve classrooms where learning comes first. Yet throughout the 2026 legislative session, Republican leadership advanced proposals that placed politics ahead of education by imposing new mandates on schools, limiting local decision-making, and creating unnecessary burdens for educators and school districts.

OUR FIGHT

Senate Democrats stood with Arizona students, parents, educators, and public schools. We fought to ensure classrooms remain places where students can learn, teachers can teach, and schools have the flexibility and resources to meet the needs of their communities, not political agendas.

RESULTS

- Blocked politically motivated mandates that would have forced partisan curriculum requirements into classrooms and diverted attention from core academic subjects like reading, writing, math, and science.
- Opposed efforts to eliminate mental health instruction and student support services.
- Fought legislation that would have restricted school districts' ability to access local funding through bonds and overrides, limiting investments in classrooms and school facilities.
- Stopped proposals designed to expose educators and school staff to increased lawsuits, penalties, and criminal liability simply for doing their jobs and supporting students.



RESULTS (cont.)

- Fought to restore accountability to Arizona's ESA voucher program by introducing legislation to prevent fraud and abuse, protect taxpayer dollars, and ensure funds are spent on education. Every proposal was rejected by the Republican majority.
- Joined the legal fight against two anti-education and anti-teacher ballot referrals that violated the Arizona Constitution to ensure they were not on the November ballot.
- Prevented additional cuts to K-12 education, including:
 - \$23 million for District Additional Assistance
 - \$37 million for low-income student/opportunity weight funding
 - \$2 million for school meals
 - \$82 million for school safety



WHY IT MATTERS

Students succeed when classrooms are focused on learning, not politics. Every child deserves a high-quality public education. Every educator deserves the freedom to teach without fear of political retaliation. And every community deserves strong neighborhood schools that prepare the next generation for success. Public schools strengthen Arizona's workforce, economy, and future.

PROTECTING ARIZONA'S YOUNGEST AND OLDEST

THE CHALLENGE

A state is measured by how it treats its youngest, its oldest, and those who need additional support to live with dignity and independence.



Across Arizona, grandparents and relatives are stepping up to become kinship caregivers to grandchildren or nieces and nephews that would otherwise end up in foster care. Seniors are struggling with housing costs and the challenges of aging. And Arizonans with intellectual and developmental disabilities rely on critical services to live, work, and participate in their communities. Families should not have to choose between caring for a loved one and keeping their own household financially stable.



OUR FIGHT

Senate Democrats fought to protect the programs and services that help Arizona families care for their loved ones: from kinship caregivers stepping up to raise children, to seniors working to remain safely in their homes, to Arizonans with intellectual and developmental disabilities who rely on home- and community-based services.

RESULTS

- Fought to strengthen support for kinship caregivers who step up to care for children in their families and communities.
- Protected critical services supporting Arizonans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Protected funding for senior housing assistance, helping older Arizonans remain safely and independently in their homes.
- Secured \$5 million in additional funding to support programs for seniors and help them remain at home.
- Protected investments in programs that support vulnerable Arizonans and their families.



WHY IT MATTERS

When a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or other relative steps up to care for a child, Arizona should help make that possible.

When a senior wants to remain safely in their home, Arizona should help them do so. And when an Arizonan with a developmental disability needs support to live independently, those services should be there.

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

THE CHALLENGE

Once again, Republicans introduced legislation that would have made it harder for eligible Arizonans to vote and undermined confidence in our elections.

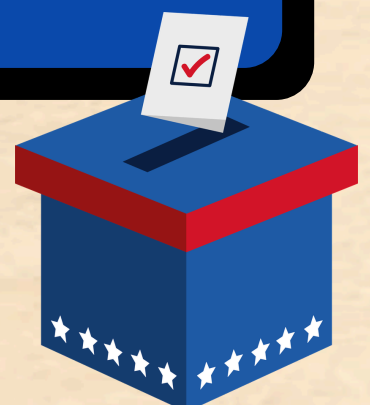


OUR FIGHT

Senate Democrats defended secure, accessible, and transparent elections and fought to protect the ability of every eligible Arizonan to participate.

RESULTS

- Passed a clean election timeline fix without restricting voter access.
- Stopped legislation that would have placed ICE at polling locations.
- Fought multiple bills and ballot referrals that would eliminate vote-by-mail, voting centers, and hamper campaign finance transparency.
- Continued advocating for clear, honest ballot language so voters understand what they are voting on.



WHY IT MATTERS

Every eligible Arizonan deserves the freedom to vote without unnecessary barriers or political interference. Our democracy works when voters trust the process, understand their choices, and know their voice matters.

PROTECTING ARIZONA'S WATER FUTURE

THE CHALLENGE

Arizona faces one of the greatest water challenges in its history. Federal proposals threatened to place an unfair share of future Colorado River reductions on Arizona despite our state's leadership in conservation.



OUR FIGHT

Senate Democrats stood up for Arizona families, farmers, Tribal nations, businesses, and communities that depend on the Colorado River every day.

RESULTS

- Opposed disproportionate federal water reductions for Arizona.
- Continued advocating for a fair interstate agreement.
- Supported long-term conservation efforts that protect Arizona's economy and future growth.

WHY IT MATTERS

Water security is economic security. Arizona deserves a fair agreement that protects our water supply, our economy, our communities, and future generations.

PROTECTING THE FREEDOMS OF EVERY ARIZONAN

THE CHALLENGE

While Arizona families needed solutions to lower costs and expand opportunity, Republican leadership continued advancing legislation that divided communities, targeted immigrants and LGBTQ+ Arizonans, and restricted fundamental freedoms. Instead of bringing people together, too many proposals sought to create fear, erect new barriers, and score political points at the expense of Arizona families.



OUR FIGHT

Senate Democrats stood united against policies rooted in division and discrimination. We fought to protect the rights, dignity, and freedoms of every Arizonan. No one should face barriers to healthcare, financial services, or equal treatment under the law because of who they are or where they come from.

RESULTS

- Stopped legislation that would have required hospitals to collect and track patients' citizenship status, protecting access to healthcare for immigrant families.
- Defeated legislation that would have restricted banking services for immigrant communities and imposed new citizenship reporting requirements on international money transfers.
- Worked alongside residents and community leaders to stop the proposed immigration detention center in Surprise and ensure community voices were heard.
- Stood up for LGBTQ+ Arizonans by opposing discriminatory legislation targeting their rights and dignity.



RESULTS (cont.)

- Continued defending reproductive freedom and access to essential healthcare.
- Protected programs and services that strengthen families, expand opportunity, and support healthy communities.



WHY IT MATTERS

Arizona is strongest when every person has the freedom to live with dignity, safety, and equal opportunity. Protecting people's freedoms is only part of the work. We must also build policies that give every community a path forward.

BY THE NUMBERS

A white circle with a sunburst of orange rays around it.

**3
YEARS**

The nation's largest
moratorium on new
data center tax
giveaways.

A white circle with a sunburst of orange rays around it.

40,000

Arizonans whose
healthcare coverage
was protected.

A white circle with a sunburst of orange rays around it.

21,000

Low-income families
who continue
to have access
to a childcare subsidy.

BY THE NUMBERS

A white circular sunburst with orange rays, containing the text "\$4 MILLION".

**\$4
MILLION**

One-time funding to
support summer
school meals for 2026
and 2027.

A white circular sunburst with orange rays, containing the text "640K".

640K

Children protected from
increased food
insecurity over the next
two summers.

A white circular sunburst with orange rays, containing the text "\$5 MILLION".

**\$5
MILLION**

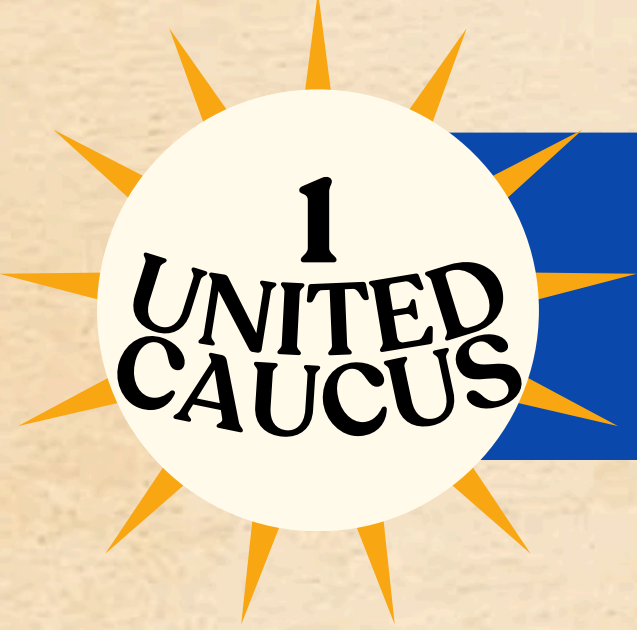
Additional funding to
support programs for
seniors and help them
remain at home.

BY THE NUMBERS

A white circular sunburst with yellow rays, containing the number 800.

800

Seniors served through
the AAA housing
appropriation in FY26.

A white circular sunburst with yellow rays, containing the text 1 UNITED CAUCUS.

**1
UNITED
CAUCUS**

Working every day
to put Arizona
families first.

LOOKING AHEAD: AN ARIZONA WE CAN AFFORD

An Arizona We Can Afford was not just the theme of the 2026 legislative session. It was the benchmark we used to measure our priorities, our fights, and our victories and it will continue to guide our work moving forward.

The challenges facing Arizona families have not disappeared.

Housing remains out of reach for too many. Inflation persists and the Trump tariffs are increasing the price of goods and decreasing consumer confidence to an all-time low. Healthcare and prescription costs continue to rise. Families are feeling pressure at the grocery store and on their utility bills. Federal policies threaten programs Arizonans depend on. Our water future remains uncertain. And communities continue to face challenges around education, immigration, and access to opportunity.

Senate Democrats will continue working toward an Arizona where families can afford to live, work, raise children, care for loved ones, and build a future.

MAKING HOUSING MORE AFFORDABLE

- Stop large corporations and institutional investors from buying up single-family homes and pricing Arizona families out of the housing market.
- Expand pathways to homeownership for first-time buyers and working families.
- Protect housing assistance for seniors and vulnerable Arizonans so they can remain safely in their homes.
- Expand affordable housing opportunities so Arizona's workforce can afford to live in the communities where they work.



LOWER HEALTHCARE COSTS AND PROTECT COVERAGE

- Protect AHCCCS from federal cuts and unnecessary state barriers.
- Fight back against the harmful effects of H.R. 1 and protect healthcare for Arizona families.
- Protect SNAP, TANF, and other critical programs from unnecessary cuts and barriers.
- Crack down on prescription drug price gouging so no Arizonan has to choose between paying for medicine and paying the bills.
- Hold health insurance companies accountable when they unfairly deny coverage patients have earned and paid for.
- Protect access to home- and community-based services that allow seniors and Arizonans with developmental disabilities to live with dignity and independence.



PROTECT FAMILIES FROM RISING COSTS

- Continue fighting to ensure data centers and other large energy users pay their fair share instead of passing higher electricity costs onto Arizona families.
- Build on our work to end unnecessary tax giveaways that benefit billion-dollar corporations at taxpayers' expense.
- Protect working families from policies that make it harder to afford food, childcare, healthcare, housing, and other basic necessities.



PROTECT ARIZONA'S YOUNGEST AND OLDEST

- Strengthen support for kinship caregivers and families caring for children.
- Protect and expand services for Arizonans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Invest in senior housing, caregiving, and community-based services.
- Ensure Arizona's youngest and oldest residents have the support they need to live with dignity and security.



BUILD SAFE, STRONG AND WELCOMING COMMUNITIES

Arizona can be a state that believes in both public safety and human dignity.

Senate Democrats will continue supporting practical immigration policies that uphold the law while protecting constitutional rights, strengthening communities, and recognizing the contributions immigrant families make to Arizona.

That means:

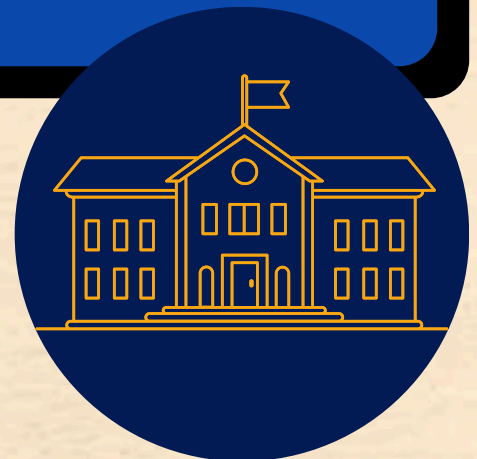
- Protecting access to healthcare and essential services so fear does not keep families from seeking help when they need it.
- Supporting transparency, accountability, and meaningful community input when federal immigration enforcement affects Arizona communities. 

- Protecting sensitive locations such as schools and hospitals from becoming places where families are afraid to seek care or send their children.
- Opposing policies that use government services, financial institutions, or healthcare systems to create unnecessary barriers for immigrant families.
- Supporting policies that strengthen Arizona's workforce and economy by creating lawful opportunities for people who want to work, contribute, and build a future in our state.
- Working with community leaders, local governments, and federal partners to make sure immigration enforcement respects due process and the safety of Arizona communities.



STRENGTHEN PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Protect neighborhood public schools from political interference and unnecessary mandates.
- Continue fighting for resources students, teachers, and schools need to succeed.
- Restore accountability to Arizona's ESA program and ensure taxpayer dollars are used responsibly.
- Protect local decision-making and ensure communities have a meaningful voice in their schools.



PROTECT ARIZONA'S WATER FUTURE

- Defend Arizona's Colorado River water supply and pursue long-term conservation solutions that protect our economy, agriculture, Tribal nations, and communities.
- Make sure Arizona has a seat at the table in future interstate water negotiations.
- Continue pursuing solutions that balance conservation, economic growth, and the needs of communities across our state.



PROTECT ARIZONA'S DEMOCRACY

- Continue working closely with the Secretary of State and local election officials to ensure Arizona elections remain secure, transparent, and accessible.
- Protect vote-by-mail, a method thousands of Arizonans rely on to participate in our democracy.
- Push back against conspiracy theories and misinformation designed to undermine confidence in our elections and discourage eligible voters from participating.
- Ensure voters have clear, accurate information about how elections work.
- Protect every eligible Arizonan's ability to make their voice heard.





These priorities are connected by one simple belief: Government should make life more **affordable**, create **opportunity**, protect our **freedoms**, and help Arizona families build a better **future**, not make their lives harder.

THE WORK CONTINUES

Leadership is not measured only by the bills that become law. It is measured by who you fight for and the values you refuse to compromise. Throughout the 2026 legislative session, Senate Democrats remained united around a simple promise:

Put Arizona Families First.

That commitment remains unchanged. Affordability is more than a paycheck.

It is being able to afford a home, keep the lights on, see a doctor, put food on the table, send your child to a strong public school, care for a parent, support a loved one with a disability, participate in our democracy, and live in your community with dignity and security. That is the Arizona we are fighting to build.

An Arizona We Can Afford

When Arizona families come first, Arizona moves forward.

