



2025-2026 Early Childhood Advocacy Guide

Step-by-Step Advocacy
for Arizona's Children

This publication was last updated on Jan 9, 2025.

 **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

Welcome to Advocacy

We recognize that stepping into the advocacy space can be intimidating. Even experienced advocates may sometimes grapple with imposter syndrome, questioning whether they're the right person for the job or if meaningful change is achievable. The reality is that the only requirement to advocate is a sincere passion for creating change.

First Things First has created this *Early Childhood Advocacy Guide* to help individuals and organizations effectively engage in advocacy efforts that support early childhood education and child care. It provides practical tools and strategies for making your voice heard through writing letters, meeting with elected officials or sharing personal stories.

Quality early learning isn't just a family issue—it impacts every industry and economic sector. When families can access reliable, high-quality child care, parents can focus on their work, businesses thrive and communities are strengthened.

TIP Reference our [glossary of important terms](#) as you read.

Table of Contents

Welcome to Advocacy	2
Step 1: Prepare to Advocate	3
Key Facts and Points	3
Supporting Handouts and Research	5
Step 2: Choose Your Advocacy Method	6
Digital Advocacy	6
Traditional Media	7
Direct Advocacy	8
Grassroots Advocacy	11
Step 3: Build and Share Your Advocacy Narrative	12
The Story of Self, Us and Now	13
Step 4: Understand the Legislative Process	15
How a Bill Becomes a Law	15
2025 - 2026 Legislative Leadership	16
2025 - 2026 House of Representatives	18
2025 - 2026 Senate	19
Step 5: Stay Connected	20
Who We Are	20
Our Public Policy Priorities	20
Stay Connected	21

Step 1: Prepare to Advocate

Key Facts and Points

Advocating for early childhood is crucial, and here are the essential facts to support your message effectively. We recommend you choose one from each section to help frame your ask.

The Challenge

Lack of Support: Arizona falls behind in political and financial backing for early childhood programs, leaving families struggling to access quality care and learning opportunities. Caregivers—both professional and family members—lack the necessary support to help children thrive.

Childhood Hardships: Nearly **1 in 8 young children** in Arizona face significant challenges such as abuse, homelessness, or parental substance issues, exceeding the national average of 1 in 9.

Why It Matters

Brain Development: A staggering 90% of brain growth occurs in the first five years of life, making these early years critical for building strong brain connections that are much harder to develop later.

Impact on Families and Workplaces: Many parents leave jobs because of the lack of affordable and reliable child care, which in turn affects businesses struggling to retain employees.

Future Workforce at Risk: Children who miss out on quality early learning face challenges in developing the skills necessary for future employment, impacting Arizona's economic competitiveness.



The Opportunity

High Return on Investments: Every dollar spent on high-quality early childhood programs returns up to **\$16** through reduced social costs and increased productivity.

Economic Growth: Early education leads to higher graduation rates, better jobs and a stronger workforce, which drives economic growth and attracts businesses to Arizona.

The Solutions

Expand Supportive Programs: Invest in parenting education, home visitation and early prevention services to provide families with the tools to foster their children's development.

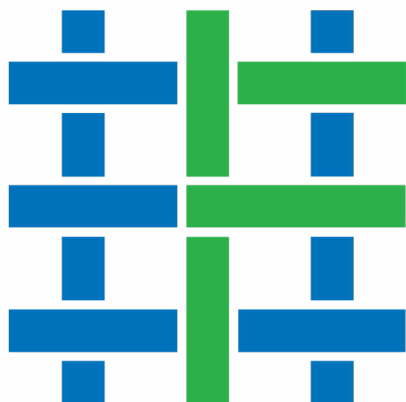
Affordable and Accessible Child Care: Ensure Arizona families have access to affordable, reliable, quality child care that supports children's development and prepares them for kindergarten.

Health Equity for Children: Break down barriers to preventive care such as regular check-ups, vaccines and screenings so every child has a healthy start in life.

Call to Action

Investing in early childhood is not just a family issue—it's an economic and community issue. By supporting policies that expand access to quality child care and early education, we can:

1. Strengthen Arizona's workforce.
2. Reduce long-term social costs.
3. Provide every child the foundation they need to thrive.



Together,
we can *build a
stronger future*
for Arizona.

Supporting Handouts and Research



Fact Sheets and Handouts

Our fact sheets provide essential information and data to help you confidently discuss and understand Arizona's state of early childhood. Use them to support your advocacy efforts and share insights with others.

- **[The Business for Child Care:](#)** Highlights how quality child care supports workforce development, boosts employee productivity and delivers long-term economic returns. It emphasizes the value of investing in early childhood programs to benefit businesses, families and the state's economy.
- **[Child Care Gap PDF:](#)** Provides an overview of the state's child care system, highlighting families' challenges in accessing adequate child care and the broader economic implications of these gaps.

Research and Data

Explore a wealth of research and data to deepen your understanding of early childhood challenges and opportunities in Arizona. These resources can help inform your advocacy efforts and provide valuable insights for meaningful conversations.

- **[Do You Live in a Child Care Desert:](#)** This resource explores child care deserts in Arizona, highlighting areas where families struggle to find accessible, affordable child care. It provides insights into the availability of child care based on location and demographic factors.
- **[Child Care Prices by Age of Children and Care Setting 2022:](#)** This resource provides information on the price of child care in a county based on the child's age and the type of child care offered.
- **[Arizona Progress Meters on Education:](#)** This tool tracks key education indicators in Arizona, offering data to measure progress toward improving outcomes for children from early learning through higher education.
- **[First Things First 2024 Regional Needs and Assets:](#)** A biennial assessment of the challenges and opportunities facing children birth to age 5 and their families in each [First Things First region](#).

Step 2: Choose Your Advocacy Method



Digital Advocacy

Digital platforms are powerful tools for amplifying voices, mobilizing support and raising awareness about systemic issues. They allow you to connect with diverse audiences and drive action in real-time.

Digital advocacy empowers you to create meaningful change and connect with communities beyond traditional boundaries.

Some forms of digital advocacy include social media campaigns, email campaigns and online petitions.

Social Media Toolkits

FTF's social media toolkits make your advocacy efforts simple and impactful. Each toolkit includes custom graphics and pre-written captions designed for specific audiences. Choose the one that resonates with your message, share it on your social channels and tag our account to expand your reach!

- [Parents and Caregivers Toolkit](#)
- [Businesses and Economic Development Leaders Toolkit](#)
- [General Audiences Toolkit](#)

We also encourage you to explore and use other local toolkits created to support early childhood advocacy in Arizona.

Email Campaign

An email campaign is a powerful tool for digital advocacy because it allows you to directly reach your audience with a clear, personalized message. Whether a one-off email or part of a coordinated campaign, email can build relationships, amplify your cause and drive meaningful change for early childhood advocacy.

Email Template

Dear *[lawmaker's name]*,

My name is *[your name]*, and I am a resident of *[city/community]* in *[legislative district]*. I am reaching out to urge you to support *[specific issue/policy]*. I'm emailing because *[tell your story and state what you want to see change]*.

By supporting *[specific issue]*, you can help *[describe the positive impact]*. I appreciate your dedication to representing our district and hope you'll stand with us on this important matter.

Sincerely,
[your full name]

Traditional Media

The news media is a powerful tool for spotlighting how systemic issues impact individuals and communities and raising local and statewide awareness. Some forms of traditional media include:

- Newspapers and radio stories
- TV, radio or podcast interviews
- Op-eds
- Press releases
- Letters to the Editor

Connect With a News Reporter

Local reporters often focus on how these problems affect people in their state and can apply pressure to encourage local officials to address relevant issues. National reporters usually spotlight more outstanding issues, like when one state does something especially harmful or noteworthy and when several states have the same problem.

1. **Find the right reporter.** Not all reporters cover every topic, so look for those who focus on issues related to your [key facts and points](#). Check local news websites or social media for reporters interested in stories like yours.

2. **Know your story.** Use the [advocacy narrative guide](#) to craft your message. You don't need to write the story for the reporter; you just have your key points ready. Focus on the most important points during your interview.
3. **Reach out.** Contact reporters by email or phone (contact information is typically listed with their articles on news websites). Be prepared to briefly explain the issue and why it's important to you and the community. If they aren't interested or don't have time to cover it, thank them for their consideration and ask if they know of another reporter who might be interested.
4. **Offer additional resources.** Reporters may appreciate suggestions for interviewing others or additional questions to explore. Think of others who can add depth to the story, such as child care providers, community leaders or advocates in your local groups.

Direct Advocacy

Local elected officials are critical in shaping child care policy and securing funding for early childhood programs. Whether you're advocating for more resources for child care or supporting specific legislation, connecting with your city council member, mayor, county supervisor, state legislative representative, state senator or the Governor's office can make a significant impact.

By meeting with a legislator, you can share how policies or bills—like those that affect child care funding—impact your family, business or community. Some forms of traditional media include:

- Calling your elected official
- Personally meeting your elected official
- Having an elected official attend a site tour
- Testifying at a committee hearing

Call Your Elected Official

Phone Call Template

Hello, my name is [your name], and I live in [city/community] in [legislative district]. I'm calling to urge [lawmaker's name] to support [specific issue/policy] because [tell your story].

We need [lawmaker's name]'s influence to [describe the positive change and its impact on your life/community].

Thank you for your time and for representing our district. I hope you will support us on this issue.

Set Up a Personal Meeting

Personal meetings provide an opportunity to give these important issues a human face and voice, ensuring that your representative understands the needs of the people they serve.



1. Find Your Legislator

- If you know your legislators, you can find them on the [Arizona Legislature Member Roster](#).
- If you do not know your legislators, [look up your legislative district](#) by entering your address in the upper left corner.

2. Set Up a Meeting

- **Reach Out:** Call or email their office to request a meeting. Clearly state your purpose and your connection to their constituency.
- **Be Flexible:** Suggest a few dates and times, and be open to virtual meetings if in-person isn't feasible.
- **Confirm Details:** Once scheduled, confirm the date, time, location and who will be present.

3. Prepare for the Meeting

Research from the [Citizen-Centric Advocacy: The Untapped Power of Constituent Engagement report](#) shows that elected officials prefer to hear about issues directly from their constituents, but constituents are often unprepared during their meetings. It also shows advocates are more influential when they tell a personalized story and provide local data on the impact on the elected official's district and constituents. (See [Build and Share Your Advocacy Narrative](#).)

4. Meet with the Legislator

- Expect 10-20 minutes, and use your time wisely. Below is an example of an agenda:
 - Introduce yourself and the issue (1 to 2 min.)
 - State your ask (1 to 2 min.)
 - Tell your story (3 to 5 min.)
 - Provide supporting information (3 to 5 min.)
 - Restate the ask (1 to 2 min.)
 - Thank them for their time (1 to 2 min.)
- Be polite, professional and direct.
- Officials may show enthusiasm, neutrality or skepticism. Stay calm and focus on the facts.
- Be prepared to answer questions and listen to their feedback or concerns.

5. How to Follow Up

- **Send a Thank-You Email:** Send an email expressing appreciation and recapping the meeting. Restate your ask to reinforce your message.
- **Provide Additional Info:** Send information promptly if they request materials or a follow-up. (See [Handouts and Research](#) for support.)
- **Stay Connected:** Continue the relationship by sharing updates or inviting them to events related to your issue.

Set Up a Site Tour

Inviting elected officials for a site tour is a powerful way to showcase a program's impact and build stronger relationships. A firsthand look at a program helps them understand the community's needs and makes your advocacy more compelling. It's an effective way to foster support for policies and funding that benefit early childhood education and child care.

1. Understand Your Why

- What is the purpose of your site tour?
- What are the values and interests of the focus lawmaker?
- How do the programs or services offered by your organization impact the lawmaker's constituents?

2. Provide Options

- Lawmakers often have limited time. Several weeks in advance, give them multiple dates and times to meet. Plan to educate them about the importance of a program while effectively capturing its essence.

3. Collaborate and Plan

- Meet with program participants willing to share their stories with the lawmaker. Practice storytelling and identify data showing the impact of funding a program on a lawmaker's constituents.

4. Follow Up

- Send a letter thanking the elected official for their time. Provide any requested data or information.
- Share images from the site tour on social media. Remember to get consent before taking photos of a lawmaker or other people. You do not need a photo release form unless you plan to use images in marketing materials.



Grassroots Advocacy

You may consider joining a local advocacy group, any community-driven organization that influences changemakers (e.g., politicians, school boards or philanthropists) through campaigns and public engagement to address local issues, unite the community and create positive change.

Some forms of grassroots advocacy include:

- Community information session
- Advocacy workshops
- Joining a local coalition or task force
- Peer to Peer Advocacy

Collective action can be powerful in raising awareness about the critical role of early childhood. One example is the [National Day Without Child Care](#), an annual mid-May event highlighting the societal undervaluing of early childhood education.

On this day, early educators, in partnership with the families they serve, close their programs, shut down early or take a sick day to draw attention to the impact of child care shortages. This powerful exercise encourages us to consider the ripple effects on working parents, businesses and the economy when child care is unavailable.

It's a reminder that child care is the workforce behind the workforce—supporting the need for continued support and investment in early childhood.

Days of advocacy you might consider joining...

Arizona's Early Childhood Day at the Capitol - February 17, 2025

This event brings advocates, families and policymakers together to emphasize how early an investment in our children leads to lifelong success, reduces future costs and builds stronger communities. Your participation will help showcase the importance of quality early childhood programs and why supporting these initiatives benefits all Arizonans. Learn more at [AZECA.org](#)

Week of the Young Child (WOYC) - April 5-11, 2025

This week-long celebration was established in 1971 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) to recognize the importance of early care and education. For WOYC, [AzAEYC](#), [First Things First](#) and [SAZAEYC](#) focus on elevating early childhood as a public good, advancing equity, and highlighting the impact of quality early childhood on creating vibrant communities. Learn more at [NAYEC.org](#)

National Provider Appreciation Day - May 9, 2025

The day recognizes the hard work and contributions of child care providers, daycare providers, educators and caregivers. It also recognizes early care and education providers and the family, friends and neighbors who care for and teach kids, igniting their imaginations and nurturing their healthy development and learning every single day. Learn more at [DES.AZ.gov](#)



Step 3: Build and Share Your Advocacy Narrative

Sharing personal stories is one of the most impactful ways to advocate for change in early childhood. Stories help us connect with others and highlight the human side of important social issues.

Through *storytelling*, everyone has the power to shape public opinion and *drive change*.

Sharing your personal experiences with legislators and decision-makers can inspire action and influence policy. Adapted from [Marshall Ganz's work at Harvard University and The New Organizing Institute](#), this approach can help you connect with others and make a compelling case for the change we need in early childhood education.

The Story of Self, Us and Now

Do you want to learn how to tell your story of self? [Use these worksheets](#) to help you figure out your challenge, choice and outcome moments.



1. The Story of Self

Identify why you care: Begin by reflecting on your own motivations. Why are you passionate about this issue? What personal experiences or values made you care about early childhood education or child care? This part of the story is about sharing your personal journey and how it connects to the broader cause.

Key Question: Why does this matter to me personally?

2. The Story of Us

Connect to a shared purpose: Expand the story to include others after sharing your own motivations. This is where you connect your personal experiences to the larger community or cause. This step helps others see how they are part of the same movement and gives them a reason to get involved.

Key Question: How do others share my values or experiences?

3. The Story of Now

Call to action: Finally, tie the personal and collective story to the present moment and the actions that must happen now. This is the crucial part where you highlight the issue's urgency and encourage people to act. This can be an appeal to legislators, communities or others in power, urging them to take immediate steps toward addressing the issue at hand.

Key Question: What needs to happen now, and why is action needed right away?

4. Structure Your Story

Build a compelling narrative: When crafting your story, consider the structure and how it will unfold:

- **The Challenge:** What issue or challenge brought you to care?
- **The Choice:** What decision did you make to act on that challenge?
- **The Outcome:** What did you learn, or how did the experience change you, and how can that inspire others to take similar action?

5. Practice and Refine

Rehearse your story: It's important to refine your story through practice. Share it with friends, family or colleagues to see what resonates and can be improved. The goal is to ensure that your story is compelling, clear and concise and triggers an emotional response in your audience.

6. Share your Story

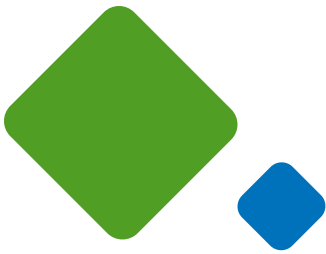
Deliver confidently: Once your story is refined, share it with your audience. Whether through writing, meetings or public speaking, your personal narrative is a tool that can engage others and move them to action. When you share your story with authenticity and passion, you help others connect to the cause on a deeper level.

Example Story from Megan:

My name is Meghan, and I'm a mom who faced the tough decision to leave my career because child care ate up over 50% of my paycheck. I had a bachelor's degree and worked for six years before I had kids. My husband and I made ends meet with our first child. However, when I had my second child, we didn't expect the increase in infant care to be as high as it was.

Without family close by to help out, I left the workforce and stayed home with my boys until my youngest entered kindergarten. It wasn't just a decision about time but a financial one. Our family missed out on over \$56,000 a year for seven years, totaling more than \$390,000 in lost income.

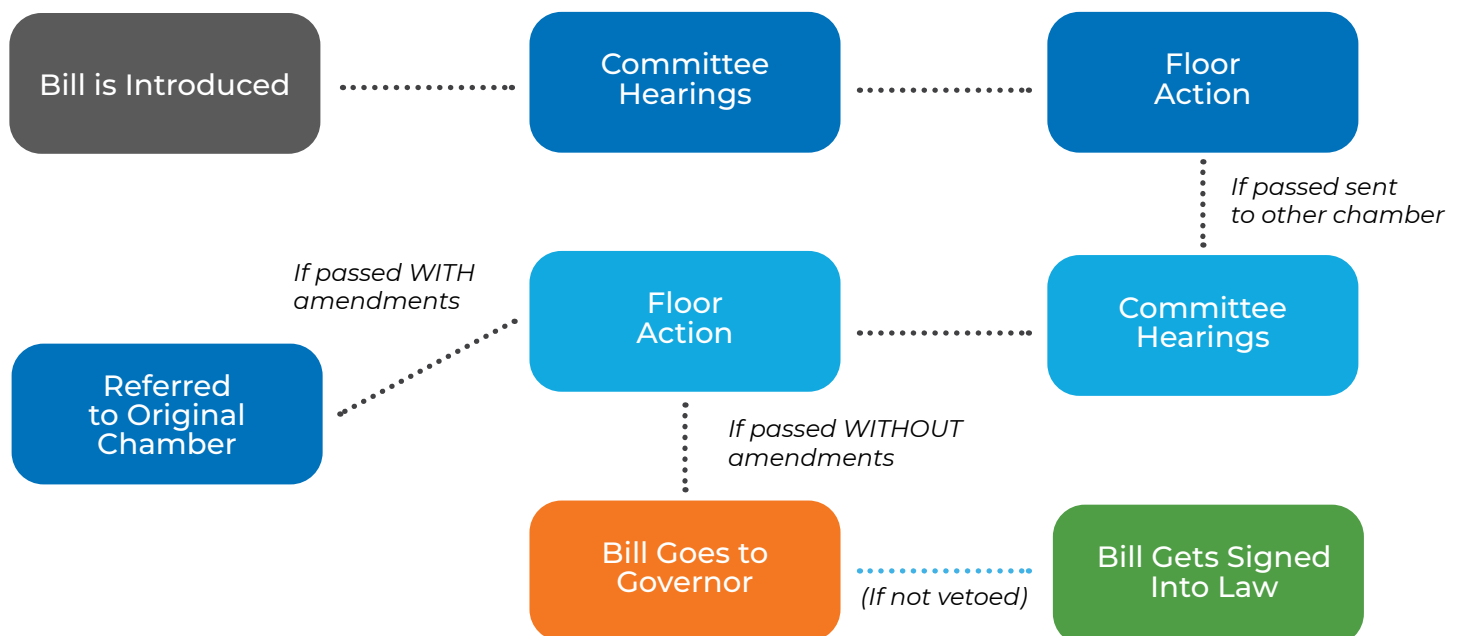
Now, my youngest is in kindergarten, and I can finally return to work—but it's been years of lost wages, missed opportunities and the challenge of rebuilding my career. The cost of child care shouldn't stand in the way of a parent's ability to contribute to their family's future. It's time we support families like mine and invest in affordable child care.



Step 4: Understanding Legislative Process

How a Bill Becomes a Law

- The Arizona State Legislature consists of two chambers—the [House of Representatives](#) (60 members) and the [Senate](#) (30 members).
- The Legislature meets every year, starting in January. Sessions usually last about 100 days, though they can go longer.
- Any legislator can introduce a bill, which must pass both the House and Senate and then be approved by the governor to become a law.
- Bills are first reviewed by small groups called committees, which focus on specific issues like education or health. The committees decide whether a bill should proceed.
- After passing both chambers, bills go to the governor. The governor can sign them into law, veto (reject) them or let them pass without a signature. A veto can be overturned if 2/3 of both chambers agree.



2025-2026 Legislative Leadership



Governor
Katie Hobbs (D)



Senate President
Warren Peterson (R)



Speaker of the House
Steve Montenegro (R)

House Democrats (D)

Minority Leader: Oscar De Los Santos
Asst. Minority Leader: Nancy Gutierrez
Co-whip: Quantá Crews
Co-whip: Stacey Travers

House Republicans (R)

Majority Leader: Michael Carbone
Whip: Julie Willoughby

Senate Democrats

Minority Leader: Priya Sundareshan
Asst. Minority Leader: Flavio Bravo
Co-whip: Rosanna Gabaldón
Co-whip: Lela Alston

Senate Republicans

Majority Leader: Janae Shamp
Whip: Frank Carroll

Legislative leaders, including the Senate President, Speaker of the House, Majority and Minority Leaders and Whips play important roles in setting the legislative agenda, managing floor debates and guiding their party's strategy. These leaders ensure the legislative process runs smoothly and align efforts to achieve policy goals.

2025 - 2026 House of Representatives

Members: 33(R)/27(D)

Representative Quang Nguyen LD-01

Representative Selina Bliss LD-01

Representative Justin Wilmeth LD-02

Representative Stephanie Simacek LD-02

Representative Joseph Chaplik LD-03

Representative Alex Kolodin LD-03

Representative Pamela Carter LD-04

Representative Matt Gress LD-04

Representative Sarah Liguori LD-05

Representative Aaron Márquez LD-05

Representative Myron Tsosie LD-06

Representative Mae Peshlakai LD-06

Representative Walt Blackman LD-07

Representative David Marshall LD-07

Representative Janeen Connolly LD-08

Representative Brian Garcia LD-08

Representative Lorena Austin LD-09

Representative Seth Blattman LD-09

Representative Justin Olson LD-10

Representative Ralph Heap LD-10

Representative Oscar De Los Santos LD-11

Representative Junelle Cavero LD-11

Representative Patty Contreras LD-12

Representative Stacey Travers LD-12

Representative Jeff Weninger LD-13

Representative Julie Willoughby LD-13

Representative Laurin Hendrix LD-14

Representative Khyl Powell LD-14

Representative Michael Way LD-15

Representative Neal Carter LD-15

Representative Teresa Martinez LD-16

Representative Chris Lopez LD-16

Representative Rachel Keshel LD-17

Representative Kevin Volk LD-17

Representative Chris Mathis LD-18

Representative Nancy Gutierrez LD-18

Representative Gail Griffin LD-19

Representative Lupe Diaz LD-19

Representative Alma Hernandez LD-20

Representative Betty Villegas LD-20

Representative Consuelo Hernandez LD-21

Representative Stephanie Stahl Hamilton LD-21

Representative Elda Luna-Nájera LD-22

Representative Lupe Contreras LD-22

Representative Michele Peña LD-23

Representative Mariana Sandoval LD-23

Representative Lydia Hernandez LD-24

Representative Anna Abeytia LD-24

Representative Michael Carbone LD-25

Representative Nick Kupper LD-25

Representative Cesar Aguilar LD-26

Representative Quantá Crews LD-26

Representative Lisa Fink LD-27

Representative Tony Rivero LD-27

Representative Beverly Pingerelli LD-28

Representative David Livingston LD-28

Representative Steve Montenegro LD-29

Representative James Taylor LD-29

Representative John Gillette LD-30

Representative Leo Biasiucci LD-30

House Committees

Appropriations (Wednesday PM)

Rep. David Livingston (Chair)

Rep. Matt Gress (Vice Chair)

Commerce (Tuesday PM)

Rep. Jeff Weninger (Chair)

Rep. Michael Way (Vice Chair)

Education (Tuesday PM)

Rep. Matt Gress (Chair)

Rep. James Taylor (Vice Chair)

Federalism, Military Affairs & Elections (Wednesday PM)

Rep. John Gillette (Chair)

Rep. Rachel Keshel (Vice Chair)

Government (Wednesday AM)

Rep. Walt Blackman (Chair)

Rep. Lisa Fink (Vice Chair)

Health & Human Services (Monday PM)

Rep. Selina Bliss (Chair)

Rep. Ralph Heap (Vice Chair)

International Trade (Wednesday AM)

Rep. Tony Rivero (Chair)

Rep. Michele Peña (Vice Chair)

Judiciary (Wednesday AM)

Rep. Quang Nguyen (Chair)

Rep. Khyll Powell (Vice Chair)

Land, Agriculture & Rural Affairs (Monday PM)

Rep. Lupe Diaz (Chair)

Rep. Michele Peña (Vice Chair)

Natural Resources, Energy & Water (Tuesday PM)

Rep. Gail Griffin (Chair)

Rep. Chris Lopez (Vice Chair)

Public Safety & Law Enforcement (Monday PM)

Rep. David Marshall (Chair)

Rep. Pamela Carter (Vice Chair)

Rules (Monday PM)

Rep. Laurin Hendrix (Chair)

Rep. Neal Carter (Vice Chair)

Transportation & Infrastructure (Wednesday PM)

Rep. Leo Biasiucci (Chair)

Rep. Teresa Martinez (Vice Chair)

Science & Technology (Wednesday PM)

Rep. Beverly Pingerelli (Chair)

Rep. Justin Wilmeth (Vice Chair)

Ways & Means (Wednesday AM)

Rep. Justin Olson (Chair)

Rep. Nick Kupper (Vice Chair)

Arizona's legislators are elected by their legislative districts to represent their interests at the state level. Their main responsibilities include proposing new laws, reviewing and refining bills in committees and voting on legislation to shape state policies.

Committees are smaller groups of legislators assigned to focus on specific topics. When a bill is introduced, it is sent to the relevant committee for review. Committees examine the bill, often holding public hearings to gather input from stakeholders and the public. Members then debate the bill and vote on whether to advance it to the full chamber for further consideration.

2025 - 2026 Senate & Senate Committees

Members: 17R/13D

Senator Mark Finchem LD-01
Senator Shawnna Bolick LD-02
Senator John Kavanagh LD-03
Senator Carine Werner LD-04
Senator Lela Alston LD-05
Senator Theresa Hatathlie LD-06
Senator Wendy Rogers LD-07
Senator Lauren Kuby LD-08
Senator Eva Burch LD-09
Senator David Farnsworth LD-10
Senator Catherine Miranda LD-11
Senator Mitzi Epstein LD-12
Senator J.D. Mesnard LD-13
Senator Warren Petersen LD-14
Senator Jake Hoffman LD-15
Senator T.J. Shope LD-16
Senator Vince Leach LD-17
Senator Priya Sundareshan LD-18
Senator David Gowan LD-19
Senator Sally Ann Gonzales LD-20
Senator Rosanna Gabaldón LD-21
Senator Eva Diaz LD-22
Senator Brian Fernandez LD-23
Senator Analise Ortize LD-24
Senator Tim Dunn LD-25
Senator Flavio Bravo LD-26
Senator Kevin Payne LD-27
Senator Frank Carroll LD-28
Senator Janae Shamp LD-29
Senator Hildy Angius LD-30

Committee on Appropriations

Senator John Kavanagh – Chair
Senator David C. Farnsworth – Vice Chair

Committee on Education

Senator David C. Farnsworth – Chair
Senator-Elect Carine Werner – Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Senator J.D. Mesnard – Chair
Senator-Elect Vince Leach – Vice Chair

Committee on Health & Human Services

Senator-Elect Carine Werner – Chair
Senator T.J. Shope – Vice Chair

Committee on Military & Border

Senator David Gowan – Chair
Senator Janae Shamp – Vice Chair

Committee on Natural Resources

Senator T.J. Shope – Chair
Senator-Elect Tim Dunn – Vice Chair

Committee on Federalism

Senator-Elect Mark Finchem – Chair
Senator-Elect Hildy Angius – Vice Chair

Committee on Judiciary & Elections

Senator Wendy Rogers – Chair
Senator John Kavanagh – Vice Chair

Committee on Government

Senator Jake Hoffman – Chair
Senator Wendy Rogers – Vice Chair

Committee on Public Safety

Senator-Elect Kevin Payne – Chair
Senator-Elect Hildy Angius – Vice Chair

Committee on Regulatory Affairs

Senator Shawnna Bolick – Chair
Senator Frank Carroll – Vice Chair

Step 5: Stay Connected

Who We Are

[First Thing First](#) is Arizona's voter-created early childhood agency, committed to the healthy development and learning of young children from birth to age 5.

First Things First ensures Arizona's youngest children have the early learning experiences they need to thrive. We partner with families, educators, business leaders and policymakers to invest in solutions that support quality early learning experiences. But right now, we're facing a crisis affecting more than just children—it is impacting businesses, workforce development and Arizona's future.

Investing in early childhood education and supporting child care solutions is an investment in Arizona's future workforce and economy.

Our Public Policy Priorities

Decades of research affirm the benefits of early childhood investments. The First Things First Board has identified six key policy priorities that support Arizona children from birth to age 5 in building a foundation for health, learning and lifelong success.

- Strengthening families
- Expanding access to quality early learning
- Promoting early health and development
- Building a sustainable early childhood workforce
- Enhancing system coordination and leadership
- Supporting research and accountability

Stay Connected

For questions about policy priorities and advocacy, connect with us at GovernmentAffairs@FirstThingsFirst.org or 602.771.5100.

[Sign up for our newsletters](#) and follow us on social media:

