



Early Childhood Advocacy Guide

Step-by-Step Advocacy for Arizona's Children

This publication was last updated in November 2025.

Welcome to Advocacy

Stepping into the advocacy space can be intimidating. You might wonder if your voice matters or if you know enough to help. The reality is, 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. It provides practical tools and strategies for making your voice heard through writing letters, meeting with elected officials or sharing personal stories.

When families have access to quality early learning environments, parents can work, businesses grow and our communities become stronger. Together, we can build a brighter future for Arizona's youngest children—and for all of us.

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Step 1: Prepare to Advocate

Key Facts and Points

Your words can help shape Arizona's future. Here are some key points to guide your message. Choose one or two from each section to make your ask clear and focused.

The Challenge

Families struggle to find affordable, reliable care.

Many Arizona families are working hard but can't find or afford quality child care. Costs are high, and many programs have long waitlists or limited hours that don't fit parents' work schedules.

Teachers and caregivers are underpaid and stretched thin.

Even the most experienced early educators often earn less than \$15 an hour, leading to high turnover and staff shortages. This instability affects children's ability to build trusting relationships and feel secure.

Why It Matters

Early years build strong foundations.

Ninety percent of a child's brain growth happens before age five. Those first experiences shape how children learn, solve problems and build relationships for the rest of their lives.

Families and businesses depend on each other.

When parents have reliable child care, they can stay focused and productive at work. Without it, many are forced to cut back their hours or leave their jobs—costing the economy billions of dollars in lost productivity each year.

Quality care benefits everyone.

Children who have access to safe, nurturing environments grow into healthier, more successful adults. That means stronger schools, safer communities and a more competitive workforce for Arizona.



The Opportunity

Support Families Early.

Invest in programs that help families from the start—such as home visitation, parent education and early prevention services that give every child a strong foundation.

Make child care accessible and affordable.

Expand access to quality early learning so that every Arizona family, regardless of income, can find care they trust and can afford.

Invest in early educators.

Provide training and fair pay to child care professionals so they can build stable, nurturing environments that help children thrive and families stay in the workforce.

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

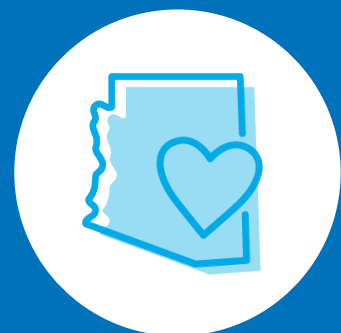
Investing in early childhood is one of the smartest, most effective ways to strengthen Arizona's future. By supporting policies that expand access to quality child care and early learning, we can:

1. Strengthen Arizona's workforce.
2. Reduce long-term social costs.
3. Provide every child the foundation to reach their full potential.

Together, we can build a stronger future for Arizona.

Together, we can strengthen Arizona's future. Investing in early childhood means:

- Supporting families through access to quality early learning.
- Boosting our workforce with reliable, ready employees.
- Driving long-term economic growth through early childhood investment.



Visit FirstThingsFirst.org/Advocate to learn how you can help.

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.
- [**Ask the Candidates:**](#) Provides key facts about early learning and child care to highlight the importance of investing in early childhood education. Includes sample questions to help determine which candidates are most likely to make a positive impact.
- [**Request to Speak Platform:**](#) This tool allows the public to register an opinion on bills listed on agendas and to request to speak on a bill in a committee. [Use this guide](#) to understand how to create an account and use this system.

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 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 make it easier than ever to raise awareness, inspire action and reach people where they are. From social media and email campaigns to online petitions, digital advocacy helps you connect with others and spark real change—anytime, anywhere.

Social Media Campaigns

Social media is one of the easiest and most powerful ways to speak up for Arizona's youngest children. Every post, share or tag helps raise awareness and show leaders that early childhood matters.

You can share your own stories, highlight local programs that make a difference or encourage others to take action. Remember to tag **@FirstThingsFirst** and use hashtags like **#AZChildCare**, **#AZEaryChildhood** and **#AZLeg** so your message reaches more people and decision-makers.

Social Media Template

The babies, toddlers and preschoolers of today will be tomorrow's students, employees and community members. Every child deserves a strong start in life. @[ElectedOfficialHandle], I'm urging you to prioritize support for sustainable early childhood funding. #AZChildCare #AZEaryChildhood #AZLeg

Email Campaigns

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

Hello, my name is [NAME], and I'm a [parent/provider/community member] in [legislative district #]. I'm asking you to support sustainable funding for early childhood programs.

First Things First helps families across Arizona by expanding access to quality child care and providing scholarships. Last year, more than 68,000 children were enrolled in Quality First programs, and over 1,400 child care providers—many small businesses—received support to improve quality and stability.

But funding from tobacco revenues is declining. Without a stable source of funding, fewer families will have access to the care they need, and programs may be forced to cut back or close. Please protect this critical investment in Arizona's youngest children and the people who care for them.

Thank you for your time and leadership,
[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

Reaching out to your elected officials' office can help advance early childhood priorities. Share how proposed policies or funding decisions affect your family, business or community by:

- 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

When voters call about an issue, staff categorize the topic and number of messages. This helps elected officials understand what matters most to their constituents.

Phone Call Template

Hello, my name is [NAME], and I'm a [parent/business leader/provider/RPC member, etc.] in [Legislative District #]. I'm asking you to support sustainable funding for early childhood programs that strengthen families, businesses and Arizona's economy.

Child care isn't just about kids—it's an economic issue. First Things First generates \$323 million in economic output each year, supports 2,800 full-time jobs, and returns \$18.2 million in state and local tax revenue.

But funding is declining. Tobacco revenues have dropped nearly 40% since 2008, putting proven programs and their economic impact at risk. Quality early learning keeps parents working, helps businesses thrive, and builds a stronger future for Arizona.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

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 16, 2026

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 11-17, 2026

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 8, 2026

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.

Sign up for a [free 45-minute storytelling workshop](#) where First Things First will help you develop your story of self. Virtual and in-person sessions are available.

Who Can Join

These trainings are open to:

- Families and caregivers
- Early childhood professionals
- Community and business leaders

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

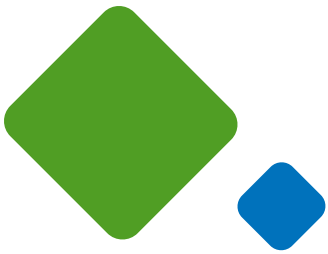
Deliver confidently: Once your story is refined, share it with your audience. Whether through writing, meetings or public speaking, your personal narrative is a tool that can engage others and move them to action. When you share your story with authenticity and passion, you help others connect to the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

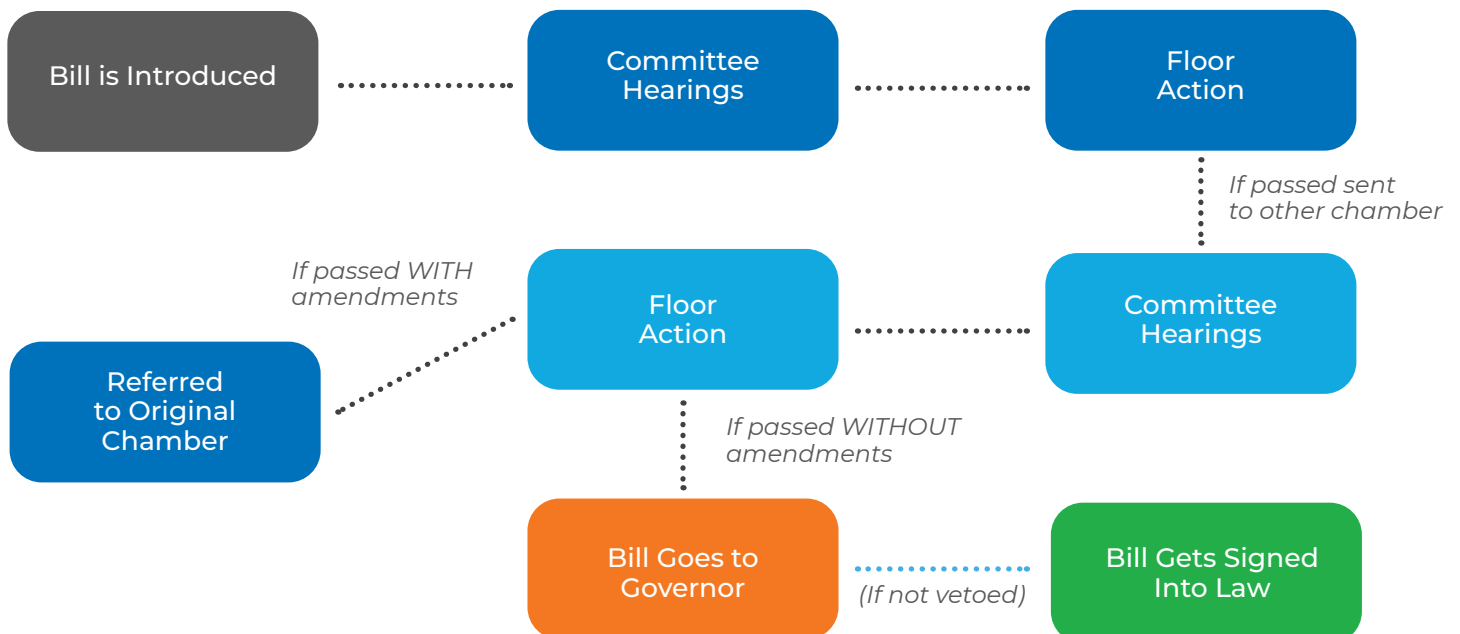
Now, my youngest is in kindergarten, and I can finally return to work—but it's been years of lost wages, missed opportunities and the challenge of rebuilding my career. The cost of child care shouldn't stand in the way of a parent's ability to contribute to their family's future. It's time we support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



Step 4: Understanding the 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 have traditionally lasted 100 days, but the session has extended beyond this time frame in recent years.
- 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: Catherine Miranda
Minority Whip: Rosanna Gabaldón
Minority Caucus Chair: Lela Alston

Senate Republicans

Majority Leader: John Kavanagh
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 Anna Abeytia LD-24

Representative Cesar Aguilar LD-26

Representative Lorena Austin LD-09

Representative Leo Biasiucci LD-30

Representative Walt Blackman LD-07

Representative Seth Blattman LD-09

Representative Selina Bliss LD-01

Representative Michael Carbone LD-25

Representative Pamela Carter LD-04

Representative Neal Carter LD-15

Representative Junelle Caverio LD-11

Representative Joseph Chaplik LD-03

Representative Janeen Connolly LD-08

Representative Patty Contreras LD-12

Representative Lupe Contreras LD-22

Representative Quantá Crews LD-26

Representative Lupe Diaz LD-19

Representative Lisa Fink LD-27

Representative Brian Garcia LD-08

Representative John Gillette LD-30

Representative Matt Gress LD-04

Representative Gail Griffin LD-19

Representative Nancy Gutierrez LD-18

Representative Stephanie Stahl Hamilton LD-21

Representative Ralph Heap LD-10

Representative Laurin Hendrix LD-14

Representative Alma Hernandez LD-20

Representative Consuelo Hernandez LD-21

Representative Lydia Hernandez LD-24

Representative Rachel Keshel LD-17

Representative Alex Kolodin LD-03

Representative Nick Kupper LD-25

Representative Sarah Liguori LD-05

Representative David Livingston LD-28

Representative Chris Lopez LD-16

Representative Elda Luna-Nájera LD-22

Representative Aaron Márquez LD-05

Representative David Marshall LD-07

Representative Teresa Martinez LD-16

Representative Chris Mathis LD-18

Representative Steve Montenegro LD-29

Representative Quang Nguyen LD-01

Representative Justin Olson LD-10

Representative Michele Peña LD-23

Representative Mae Peshlakai LD-06

Representative Beverly Pingerelli LD-28

Representative Khyl Powell LD-14

Representative Tony Rivero LD-27

Representative Mariana Sandoval LD-23

Representative Oscar De Los Santos LD-11

Representative Stephanie Simacek LD-02

Representative James Taylor LD-29

Representative Stacey Travers LD-12

Representative Myron Tsosie LD-6

Representative Betty Villegas LD-20

Representative Kevin Volk LD-17

Representative Michael Way LD-15

Representative Jeff Weninger LD-13

Representative Julie Willoughby LD-13

Representative Justin Wilmeth LD-02

House Committees

Appropriations

Rep. David Livingston (Chair)

Rep. Matt Gress (Vice Chair)

Commerce

Rep. Jeff Weninger (Chair)

Rep. Michael Way (Vice Chair)

Education

Rep. Matt Gress (Chair)

Rep. James Taylor (Vice Chair)

Federalism, Military Affairs & Elections

Rep. John Gillette (Chair)

Rep. Rachel Keshel (Vice Chair)

Government

Rep. Walt Blackman (Chair)

Rep. Lisa Fink (Vice Chair)

Health & Human Services

Rep. Selina Bliss (Chair)

Rep. Ralph Heap (Vice Chair)

International Trade

Rep. Tony Rivero (Chair)

Rep. Michele Peña (Vice Chair)

Judiciary

Rep. Quang Nguyen (Chair)

Rep. Khyll Powell (Vice Chair)

Land, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

Rep. Lupe Diaz (Chair)

Rep. Michele Peña (Vice Chair)

Natural Resources, Energy & Water

Rep. Gail Griffin (Chair)

Rep. Chris Lopez (Vice Chair)

Public Safety & Law Enforcement

Rep. David Marshall (Chair)

Rep. Pamela Carter (Vice Chair)

Regulatory Oversight

Rep. Joseph Chaplik (Chair)

Rep. Alex Kolodin (Vice Chair)

Transportation & Infrastructure

Rep. Leo Biasiucci (Chair)

Rep. Teresa Martinez (Vice Chair)

Science & Technology

Rep. Beverly Pingerelli (Chair)

Rep. Justin Wilmeth (Vice Chair)

Ways & Means

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 Lela Alston LD-05

Senator Hildy Angius LD-30

Senator Shawwna Bolick LD-02

Senator Flavio Bravo LD-26

Senator Frank Carroll LD-28

Senator Eva Diaz LD-22

Senator Tim Dunn LD-25

Senator Mitzi Epstein LD-12

Senator David Farnsworth LD-10

Senator Brian Fernandez LD-23

Senator Mark Finchem LD-01

Senator Rosanna Gabaldón LD-21

Senator Sally Ann Gonzales LD-20

Senator David Gowan LD-19

Senator Theresa Hatathlie LD-06

Senator Jake Hoffman LD-15

Senator John Kavanagh LD-03

Senator Lauren Kuby LD-08

Senator Vince Leach LD-17

Senator J.D Mesnard LD-13

Senator Catherine Miranda LD-11

Senator Analise Ortiz LD-24

Senator Kevin Payne LD-27

Senator Warren Petersen LD-14

Senator Wendy Rogers LD-07

Senator Kiana Sears LD-09

Senator Janae Shamp LD-29

Senator T.J. Shope LD-16

Senator Priya Sundareshan LD-18

Senator Carine Werner LD-04

Committee on Appropriations

Senator David C. Farnsworth – Chair

Senator John Kavanagh – Vice Chair

Committee on Education, Transportation & Technology

Senator Hildy Angius – Chair

Senator Carine Werner – Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Senator J.D. Mesnard – Chair

Senator Vince Leach – Vice Chair

Committee on Health & Human Services

Senator Carine Werner – Chair

Senator T.J. Shope – Vice Chair

Committee on Military Affairs & Border Security

Senator David Gowan – Chair

Senator Janae Shamp – Vice Chair

Committee on Natural Resources

Senator T.J. Shope – Chair

Senator Tim Dunn – Vice Chair

Committee on Federalism

Senator Mark Finchem – Chair

Senator 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 Kevin Payne – Chair

Senator Hildy Angius – Vice Chair

Committee on Regulatory Affairs

Senator Shawwna Bolick – Chair

Senator Frank Carroll – Vice Chair

Step 5: Stay Connected

Who We Are

First Things 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:

-  [AZFirstThingsFirst](#)
-  [@AZFTF](#)
-  [@azfirstthingsfirst](#)
-  [first-things-first](#)
-  [FTFArizona](#)