

# From Unlocking Potential: Turn Arizona's Priorities into Economic Gains The Arizona Voters' Agenda Economic Analysis

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### **FOREWORD**

by Center for the Future of Arizona

Arizonans agree more than they disagree on big, important issues. And that agreement holds powerful value – politically, socially, and economically.

The <u>Arizona Voters' Agenda</u>, developed by Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA), reveals something meaningful: a strong consensus on the priorities voters want leaders to address. In a state often painted as highly partisan and divided, this level of agreement is striking. It's also a roadmap.

What if we built the future around what brings Arizonans together?

Voters overwhelmingly agree on the importance of education and the need for greater investment, housing that is affordable, reliable transportation, childcare that supports working families, and more pathways to opportunity. These aren't partisan talking points; they're everyday priorities that most people agree on, no matter their party affiliation or age.

What would it mean if the priorities of Arizonans were realized? This project begins to answer that question.

CFA commissioned Rounds Consulting Group to analyze five of the many priorities in the 2024 Arizona Voters' Agenda through the lens of economic return: dual enrollment, post-secondary education, childcare access, housing affordability, and transportation infrastructure. Taken together, these five issues represent key building blocks for the future and a foundation on which to build Arizona's success.

When we turn shared priorities into action, we unlock benefits that ripple across families, neighborhoods, and the entire state.

When childcare is reliable, parents and guardians can work. When housing is affordable, families and workers stay rooted, and communities remain stable. When students gain access to education and training beyond high school, they advance faster and build skills employers need. When roads connect people and jobs, economies grow. These priorities deliver a measurable return and make Arizona work for everyone. Together, they reveal a picture of what Arizona could be if we act on what voters already agree on.

#### We're cutting through the noise to help leaders focus on what voters truly want.

This work is part of CFA's broader mission to connect leaders with what Arizonans agree is important to them and their communities, and what they want for a prosperous and successful future for our state. Our goal is to provide decision-makers with sound data and a clear sense of what's possible. Investments will need to be made, and this report shows the potential for strong returns. By starting with the long-term return on investing in voters' priorities, we can make smart investments for the future.

### Step back, look ahead, and build the prosperous future Arizonans want.

Voters have already told us what matters. The return on acting is real. It's measurable. And it's within reach.

Let's use that to move forward.



### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Arizona's long-term economic health hinges not just on job creation or population growth, but on the strength of the systems that support individuals, families, businesses, and communities. A resilient and competitive economy is rooted in strong economic fundamentals.

Key economic fundamentals include workforce development, transportation and infrastructure, education, childcare, and housing. These fundamentals are core attributes that enable economic growth, not just in quantity, but in quality.

This report focuses on five voter-identified priorities that are building blocks of a healthy economy:

- 1. Childcare Access & Affordability
- 2. Dual Enrollment
- 3. Post-Secondary Attainment

- 4. Housing Affordability
- 5. Transportation Investment

Arizonans across political affiliations strongly agree on the need for action in these areas, as highlighted in CFA's 2024 Arizona Voters' Agenda. By analyzing the five issues through a return-on-investment (ROI) lens, the findings in this report help answer a central question: What would it mean for Arizona's economy if the outcomes voters want were realized?

Each voter-identified issue area offers an independent ROI, but the greatest economic benefits come when these areas are advanced together in a coordinated and strategic manner. By quantifying those returns, this report aims to guide data-driven policymaking and mobilize broad, cross-sector support for strengthening Arizona's economic foundation.

For instance, families cannot access education or jobs without reliable transportation and affordable housing; workers cannot fully participate in the economy without accessible childcare; and employers cannot thrive without a skilled and stable workforce.

Like any economy, Arizona operates with finite public resources – requiring strategic choices. While it may not be possible to simultaneously maintain a low tax burden and achieve a high level of investment in infrastructure, workforce, and support systems, it is possible to prioritize investments that deliver the strongest economic returns. That is why it is critical to assess these public policy areas based on the economic returns they deliver.

While this analysis does not evaluate specific policies, initiatives, or program costs, it provides a data-driven foundation to inform discussions, evaluate potential solutions, and guide decision-making focused on maximizing economic returns.

# What Happens When Arizona Invests in What Voters Prioritize? Key Takeaways by Topic Include:

### Childcare Access & Affordability

Arizona's lack of affordable, reliable childcare limits workforce participation, which costs the state nearly \$5 billion annually.

Expanding access and affordability could generate over \$12 billion in annual economic output and support over 115,000 jobs, while giving families an extra \$9,300 per year in household income.

#### **Dual Enrollment**

Dual enrollment programs help high school students earn college credit while in high school, significantly lowering the time and cost of earning a degree.

These programs increase post-secondary completion rates and lifetime earnings, with each new cohort delivering more than \$47 million in economic output and over \$3 million in new state and local tax revenues each year.

### Post-Secondary Attainment

Arizona has a significant opportunity to better prepare its residents for the future workforce. Each year, the state is projected to have about 81,700 job openings requiring post-secondary education. Yet the state produces only about 10,400 post-secondary graduates annually,

leaving an opportunity for roughly 71,300 additional Arizonans to step into high-paying jobs. Seizing this opportunity, rather than leaving jobs unfilled or relying on out-of-state talent, could generate \$20 billion in economic output, \$8 billion in wages, and \$740 million in tax revenues annually.

### Housing Affordability

One in three Arizona households is costburdened by housing. On average, these households would gain an extra \$8,900 per year to spend on necessities, savings, or local purchases if the burden were reduced.

Collectively, that would unlock nearly \$7 billion in annual consumer spending, support over 126,000 jobs, and generate more than \$13 billion in economic activity, while stabilizing communities and reducing pressure on public services.

### Transportation Infrastructure

Investments in transportation pay long-term dividends by improving mobility, reducing congestion, and supporting business growth.

Local and national case studies show that every \$1 invested in infrastructure yields \$1.60–\$3.70 in return, with tens of thousands of jobs supported annually and billions generated in business sales and tax revenues.

## Investing in Arizona's Economic Foundation Promises Substantial Returns

Arizona's economic future will be determined by the willingness of the public, private sector, and elected leaders alike to invest in the fundamentals that make the economy "tick." The findings in this report make clear that these issues are not only widely supported but also foundational to long-term success. Together, they form the groundwork for sustainable growth, increased productivity, and a more inclusive economy that benefits all Arizonans.

This analysis demonstrates that targeted investments in these areas yield substantial returns: higher earnings for families, stronger labor force participation, more competitive businesses, and increased public revenues. In contrast, failing to act risks undermining Arizona's growth potential, widening opportunity gaps, and leaving billions in economic value unrealized.

As Arizona charts its path forward, data-driven solutions that reflect voter priorities will be essential. By investing in the fundamentals, Arizona can build a more resilient, inclusive, and prosperous economy – one that delivers for every community across the state.



## TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

### What Voters Are Saying Loud and Clear

As Arizonans consider strategies to ensure sustainable economic growth, stable revenue, and effective long-term planning, there is strong voter support for investing in critical infrastructure – particularly transportation.

Findings from the 2024 Arizona Voters' Agenda survey show planning for the future resonates strongly with voters, as 88% of voters agree that Arizona needs "a long-term investment strategy based on stable revenue and better planning" to sustain growth.

Additionally, 52% of voters are not confident that Arizona is prepared for future growth, and 87% of voters support the statement that "It will take higher levels of planning and preparedness to ensure we have the resources and infrastructure to support growth and maintain our quality of life."

Transportation infrastructure, in particular, stands out as a top priority:

 90% of all voters agree that "A robust transportation infrastructure system, including investments in our freeways, streets, and transit throughout the State of Arizona, is critical to moving people, goods, and services throughout the state and essential to our long-term economic success."

These findings demonstrate a strong consensus across all political affiliations on the need to strengthen Arizona's transportation network as a foundation for economic development and quality of life. This presents a timely opportunity for policymakers to work collaboratively across party lines to develop and implement long-range infrastructure investment strategies.

## The Economic Impact of Realizing the Priorities of Arizonans

To quantify the economic impact and ROI associated with investments in Arizona's highway, road, and public transit infrastructure, we applied a data-driven approach using Arizona-specific socioeconomic and demographic data, as well as publicly available reports and national data sets.<sup>1</sup>

## What Arizona Stands to Gain from Transportation Infrastructure Investment

Investments in transportation infrastructure generate wide-ranging economic benefits that go far beyond the movement of goods and people.

Key areas of impact include:

- Public Safety Well-maintained roads reduce accident risk, improve emergency response times, and enhance safety for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. Studies show crash rates can be reduced by 33% to 50% when pavement conditions are preserved below critical deterioration thresholds.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, public transit improves safety by reducing vehicle miles traveled and lowering the overall incidence of crashes.<sup>3</sup>
- Vehicle Maintenance Costs Poor road conditions can cause damage to vehicles, leading to higher vehicle maintenance and repair costs. Pothole-related issues alone cost the average driver \$600 in repairs annually, totaling over \$3 billion nationwide.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, public transit has the ability to reduce household transportation costs by approximately \$1,100 per month.<sup>5 & 6</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Appendix for a full description of the methodology used to calculate economic impacts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> National Transportation Center, University of Maryland, *Effect of Pavement Conditions on Accident Rate*, June 2017, https://mti.umd.edu/sites/mti.umd.edu/files/documents/NTC2016-SU-R-2%20Michael%20Mamlouk.pdf?utm\_.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> American Public Transportation Association, *Public Transportation Gets Us There*, <a href="https://www.publictransportation.org/transit-benefits/grows-communities/">https://www.publictransportation.org/transit-benefits/grows-communities/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> American Automobile Association (AAA), AAA: Potholes Can Be a Black Hole for Your Wallet, March 2024, https://news.eastcentral.aaa.com/news/releases-20240308.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> American Public Transportation Association, *Public Transportation Gets Us There*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> American Public Transportation Association, Economic Impact of Public Transportation Investment, 2020, <a href="https://www.apta.com/wp-content/uploads/APTA-Economic-Impact-Public-Transit-2020.pdf?utm">https://www.apta.com/wp-content/uploads/APTA-Economic-Impact-Public-Transit-2020.pdf?utm</a>.

- Labor Market Efficiency Public transit expands access to employment across a broader geographic area, allowing employers to tap into a wider talent pool and helping workers reach jobs they might otherwise be excluded from due to distance or lack of car access.<sup>7</sup>
- Traffic Flow & Congestion Well-maintained roads ensure efficient traffic flow, reducing delays and improving overall mobility. In contrast, deteriorating road conditions force drivers to slow down or take detours, leading to increased congestion and longer travel times. In metro Phoenix, congestion costs drivers an estimated \$1.5 billion annually in lost time and wasted fuel. Expanded public transit capacity helps alleviate congestion by reducing the number of single-occupancy vehicles on the road.
- **Economic Growth** Efficient transportation networks improve business logistics, facilitate commerce, and attract private investment. Infrastructure projects generate employment during construction and operations while improving long-term business performance. Case studies from Arizona and elsewhere demonstrate measurable gains in tax revenue, job creation, and economic output from targeted infrastructure investments.
- Environmental Impact Improved infrastructure reduces traffic congestion and emissions, while public transit produces significantly fewer emissions per passenger mile. Well-maintained roads also support better stormwater drainage, preventing pollutants from entering waterways and improving public health outcomes related to air quality.<sup>9</sup>
- Cost Efficiencies Investing in regular maintenance is more cost-effective in the long run than paying for extensive repairs and overhauls due to neglect. Preventive maintenance helps to extend the lifespan of roads, saving public funds. <sup>10</sup> Public transit investments can also reduce long-term infrastructure costs by lowering the demand for new road construction and parking facilities.
- Quality of Life Areas with well-maintained roads are often more desirable to individuals
  and families, leading to higher property values, the creation of additional job opportunities,
  higher wages, improved safety and emergency response times, and improvements in the
  overall quality of life for residents. High-quality public transit contributes by enhancing
  mobility for all income levels, reducing commute stress, and supporting walkable, connected
  communities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Urban Institute, How Policymakers Can Analyze Public Transit Investments to Increase Equity and Access, March 2024, https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/how-policymakers-can-analyze-public-transit-investments-increase-equity-access.

Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Annual Highway Congestion Cost, 2021, https://www.bts.gov/content/annual-highway-congestion-cost.

<sup>9</sup> National Institute of Health, What are the Health Costs of Air Pollution, and What can We Do About It?, March

 $<sup>\</sup>textbf{2024}, \\ \textbf{https://magazine.medlineplus.gov/article/what-are-the-health-costs-of-air-pollution-and-what-can-we-do-about-it#:$$\sim$:text=Over%20time%2C%20exposure%20to%20air, \\ \textbf{Heart%20disease}%20and%20stroke.$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Federal Highway Administration, *Information: Preventative Maintenance Eligibility*, 2001. https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/preservation/memos/011126.cfm.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> California State Government, *Transportation Effects on Property Values*, 2011, <a href="https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/environmental-analysis/documents/ser/f0003658-appendixd-propertyvalues-21102011-a11y.pdf">https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/environmental-analysis/documents/ser/f0003658-appendixd-propertyvalues-21102011-a11y.pdf</a>.

## Transportation Infrastructure Investment Case Studies

Examining real-world case studies helps provide insights into how investments influence economic conditions at the local, regional, and national levels. The following case studies provide generalized estimates of the effects of investing in and the costs of neglecting transportation infrastructure improvements.

### Case Study – Proposition 400(e) in Maricopa County

Arizona's Proposition 400 (Prop 400), originally approved by Maricopa County voters in 2004, was extended by voters in the November 2024 general election (Prop 400e). The proposition continues a half-cent sales tax that funds transportation projects in Maricopa County, including highways, public transit, and multimodal infrastructure. The distribution of the \$24 billion transportation investment fund over the 20-year period is estimated to allocate 41% to freeways and highways, 37% to public transit, and 23% to roads and intersections.<sup>12</sup>

The investment plan is expected to reduce congestion by 51,000 hours per day on key transportation routes, improving mobility (e.g., lower traffic delays) and operational inefficiencies (e.g., reduced fuel costs). 13

According to a study published by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), the extension of Prop 400 is projected to have a significant impact on the regional economy, generating \$59 billion in Gross Regional Product (GRP), \$112.9 billion in increased local business sales, and \$40.2 billion in net-new local income.<sup>14</sup>

Roadway and transit improvements create construction-related jobs as well as employment in industries that benefit from enhanced transportation access. The investment is also projected to support 31,600 net-new jobs annually from 2026 to 2050.<sup>15</sup>

Overall, the MAG projections expect a total benefit-cost ratio (BCR) of 3.7 on the local economy. <sup>16</sup> This indicates that for every dollar invested, the regional economy is expected to gain \$3.70 in economic benefits.

### Case Study – Economic Evaluation of the Pima RTA

In March 2026, Pima County voters will decide whether to extend the region's half-cent sales tax for transportation projects for another 20 years under the Pima County Regional Transportation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Arizona Public Health Association, *Maricopa Transportation Tax Makes it to the November 2024 Ballot After All*, August 2023, https://azpha.org/2023/08/09/maricopa-transportation-tax-makes-it-to-the-november-2024-ballot-after-all/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Maricopa Association of Governments, *Economic Analysis of the Proposition 400 Extension*, February 2023, https://azmag.gov/Portals/0/Transportation/RTP/2023/Economic-Analysis-of-the-Proposition-400-Extension.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Maricopa Association of Governments, Economic Analysis of the Proposition 400 Extension, 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Maricopa Association of Governments, *Economic Analysis of the Proposition 400 Extension, 2023.* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Maricopa Association of Governments, Economic Analysis of the Proposition 400 Extension, 2023.

Authority's *RTA Next plan*.<sup>17</sup> The tax, in effect since 2006, has funded infrastructure improvements aimed at enhancing mobility and supporting economic growth.

This ballot measure is distinct from Proposition 414, which voters recently rejected in March 2025. While both involve transportation, Prop 414 included additional provisions beyond transportation funding. The upcoming vote focuses specifically on extending the transportation sales tax aligned with the existing Regional Transportation Authority framework.

Economic analyses of previous investments can provide useful insights into how extending or discontinuing the tax may influence the region's long-term economic trajectory.

In 2006, Pima County approved a \$2.1 billion Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) plan, which funded projects such as roadway widening and improvements, new road construction, highway interchanges and intersections, pedestrian crossings, bike lanes and bus pullouts, and drainage infrastructure enhancements.

Past infrastructure investments have supported temporary construction jobs while also contributing to long-term employment growth. Estimates suggest that without the original RTA plan, Pima County could have 60,000 fewer jobs due to reduced competitiveness in economic development.<sup>18</sup>

Looking ahead, the County's job growth projections between 2025 and 2045 suggest a potential gain of 87,600 new jobs under current conditions.<sup>19</sup> Economic modeling suggests that transportation investment decisions could impact this trajectory.

- Without an Extension If the tax is not extended, reduced funding for transportation projects could result in the loss of 54,000 jobs from projected gains, leading to a net job growth of only 33,600 jobs instead of 87,600. Additionally, the region could see a cumulative loss of \$3.5 billion in state, county, and city tax revenues by 2045 due to lower economic activity.<sup>20</sup>
- With an Extension If the tax is extended, continued investment in transportation infrastructure could lead to a net increase of 102,000 jobs and generate an additional \$6.5 billion in tax revenues, assuming the County invests aggressively in its transportation infrastructure and prioritizes high-ROI projects.<sup>21</sup>

Overall, it is estimated that an extension of the tax and the County's RTA plan would have an ROI of 1.6:1. This means that for every dollar spent, the County is projected to gain \$1.60 in tax revenues. <sup>22</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Pima County Regional Transportation Authority, About RTA Next, 2025, https://rtanext.com/what-is-rta-next/.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 18}$  Author's calculations, based on historical business development patterns.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 19}$  Based on the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity estimates.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Author's calculations, based on the economic modeling of lower business activity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Author's calculations, based on the economic modeling of enhanced business activity.

 $<sup>^{22}</sup>$  Author's calculations, based on the economic modeling of enhanced business activity.

The economic evaluations are based on various economic modeling scenarios, including a baseline projection based on current conditions, a conservative scenario (no extension) where funding declines, and an optimistic scenario (tax extension) where continued investment and proper planning lead to stronger economic outcomes.

These values, along with additional details regarding the economic impacts of transportation infrastructure investment in Pima County, are available in reports published by the County. These reports, along with voter information packets, provide further insight into the potential outcomes associated with the tax extension.

### Key Takeaways – Transportation Investment

Policy decisions related to investments in transportation infrastructure – including roads, highways, and public transit – can have significant implications. The analysis and case studies highlight how increases or reductions in transportation infrastructure affect job creation, business growth, and growth trajectories. Key findings from the economic analysis include:

- Reliable transportation infrastructure is a cornerstone of economic growth. High-quality road networks, including connectivity to major interstates, enhance business operations, attract investment, and support sustained regional development. As demonstrated in the Pima RTA case study, continued investment in transportation infrastructure could lead to an increase of 102,000 new jobs by 2045 14,400 jobs above current projections.<sup>23</sup>
- An efficient transportation system influences business growth. A well-developed system ensures efficient product distribution, affordable delivery of materials, and safe, timely commutes for workers critical factors in company location and expansion decisions. Efficiency improvements can also lead to increases in business sales. Based on estimates from MAG, transportation improvements in Maricopa County are projected to increase local business sales by \$112.9 billion.<sup>24</sup>
- Strategically planned infrastructure investments can yield economic benefits that exceed their costs. Properly sequenced projects can generate a net-positive economic impact, reinforcing the long-term value of transportation funding. For example, MAG projections indicate that for every dollar invested in transportation infrastructure, the regional economy is expected to gain \$3.70 in economic benefits.<sup>25</sup>
- A positive ROI occurs when public infrastructure investments generate net increases in tax revenue. This ensures that taxpayer dollars contribute to economic expansion and improved public services. For instance, the extension of the Pima RTA tax plan is projected to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Pima County RTA Case Study.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Maricopa Association of Governments, *Economic Analysis of the Proposition 400 Extension, 2023.* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Maricopa Association of Governments, *Economic Analysis of the Proposition 400 Extension, 2023.* 

generate \$1.60 in tax revenues for every dollar invested – meaning the investment has a positive ROI of 1.6:1.<sup>26</sup>

- Public transit investment generates broad-based economic returns. According to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), every \$1 billion invested in public transportation supports approximately 17,900 jobs and produces \$5 billion in economic output.<sup>27</sup> Additionally, individuals who switch from driving to public transit can save over \$13,000 annually by reducing expenses related to fuel, maintenance, insurance, and vehicle depreciation.<sup>28</sup>
- While infrastructure projects require significant investment, the cost of neglecting existing assets far exceeds the expense of new development and ongoing maintenance. Deteriorating infrastructure leads to higher long-term costs, reduced economic competitiveness, and diminished quality of life for residents and businesses.

### The Economic Case for Action on Accelerating Transportation Investment

Transportation infrastructure is a foundational component of a strong economy. Strategic investments reduce travel costs for residents and businesses, enhance productivity, improve access to jobs, attract private investment, and ultimately support stronger tax revenue collections. These benefits are not abstract – they are well-documented across both national and Arizona-based studies.

The vast majority of voters across party lines are supportive of maintaining and investing in infrastructure that contributes to Arizona's prosperity. As reflected in the Arizona Voters' Agenda, voters recognize that a robust infrastructure network is essential to supporting growth, enhancing mobility, and improving quality of life.

This analysis offers a clear, data-driven foundation for understanding the return on investment from strengthening Arizona's transportation systems. While it does not assess specific funding strategies or policy mechanisms, it lays the groundwork for future planning and solution-building. By aligning with public priorities, Arizona leaders can unlock economic growth and build the infrastructure needed to support a prosperous and resilient future.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Pima County RTA Case Study.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Illinois Road & Transportation Builders Association, *Federal Transportation Investment Benefits the United States*, 2024, https://www.irtba.org/advocacy/where-we-stand/federal-transportation-investment-benefits-united-states.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> American Public Transportation Association, Economic Impact of Public Transportation Investment, 2020.

## APPENDIX: ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

This report provides a data-driven analysis of five voter-identified priorities – childcare access and affordability, dual enrollment, postsecondary education attainment, housing affordability, and transportation infrastructure – selected from the Center for the Future of Arizona's 2024 Voters' Agenda.

Each analysis quantifies the potential economic benefits associated with achieving improved outcomes in these areas. Importantly, this report does not evaluate specific policies, program designs, or implementation costs. Rather, it focuses on estimating the scale and nature of economic gains that could result if the priorities of Arizona voters were realized.

To model the potential economic impacts, the following standardized approach was applied across each issue area:

- Arizona-Specific Data Inputs: Each analysis draws from local and regional datasets, including U.S. Census Bureau statistics, state wage data, education outcomes, labor force participation metrics, and household cost burdens. Where appropriate, national research and datasets were used to supplement state-level data.
- **Issue-Specific Model Inputs:** Unique assumptions were made for each topic to reflect the specific drivers of economic change:
  - Childcare: Number of families needing care, average annual costs, and lost wages from reduced workforce participation.
  - <u>Dual Enrollment:</u> Postsecondary enrollment and completion differences, wage gains by education level, and number of students affected.
  - Postsecondary Education: Wage differentials by educational attainment, lifetime earnings estimates, and degree completion rates.
  - Housing Affordability: Number of cost-burdened households, estimated discretionary income gains, and statewide consumer spending impacts.
  - <u>Transportation Investment:</u> Modeled outcomes from actual investment scenarios (e.g., Proposition 400e in Maricopa County), published benefit-cost ratios, and regional productivity data.
- Economic Impact Modeling with IMPLAN: To estimate the broader economic effects of
  each issue area, this analysis used IMPLAN, a nationally recognized input-output modeling
  system widely regarded as the industry standard for economic and fiscal impact studies.

IMPLAN is commonly used by economists, academic institutions, and government agencies to model how changes in economic activity, such as increased wages or household spending, ripple through an economy.

Arizona-specific IMPLAN multipliers were applied to estimate the total economic impact, which includes:

- <u>Direct Effects</u> The immediate economic activity generated by the modeled change (e.g., increased earnings or reduced costs).
- Indirect Effects Economic activity in industries that support affected sectors (e.g., increased business-to-business activity).
- Induced Effects Household spending by workers whose income increases as a result of the direct and indirect effects.

Results are expressed in the following standard impact categories:

- Jobs The estimated number of full-time and part-time positions supported by the modeled activity.
- <u>Labor Income</u> The total wages, salaries, and benefits earned by workers in the directly, indirectly, and induced affected sectors.
- <u>Economic Output</u> The total value of goods and services produced in the economy as a result of the activity (similar to how GDP is estimated).
- State and Local Tax Revenues Estimated revenues generated for state and local governments through various taxes, including sales, income, property, and other applicable levels.
- No Policy Recommendations: This report does not recommend specific actions or funding mechanisms. Instead, it is intended to provide neutral, evidence-based economic estimates that can inform future decision-making.

This consistent and straightforward methodology allows for a clear understanding of the economic value associated with addressing widely supported voter priorities. While each issue area presents unique dynamics, this common framework allows policymakers, stakeholders, and community leaders to compare outcomes and weigh the return on investment across multiple areas critical to Arizona's long-term success.

Voter-backed priorities offer a high return for Arizona and a strong foundation for long-term prosperity.

Full report at arizonafuture.org/UnlockPotential

