



# 2025 BUSINESS PRIORITIES

Since 1978, the Gilbert Chamber of Commerce has proactively served as the business advocate to strengthen the business climate in Gilbert.



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## OUR POLICY PILLARS



A thriving business community drives community and economic growth by creating jobs, generating income, and fostering innovation. Our policy pillars focus on promoting a business-friendly environment, reducing regulatory barriers, ensuring fair and reasonable tax systems, and fostering a positive relationship between businesses and their community. Generally, policies impacting business can be categorized within these four policy pillars:

- Business Growth
- Prepared Workforce
- Positive Business Environment
- Infrastructure

## OUR MISSION

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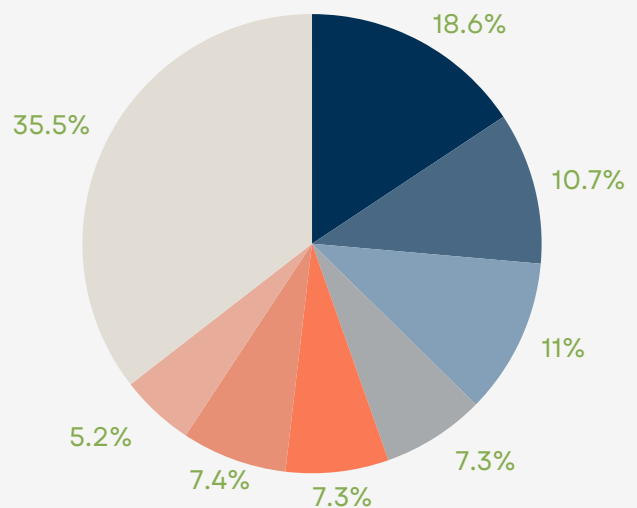
## OUR PURPOSE

We represent the interests of our business community, provide access to resources, and foster meaningful connections so that business professionals have a place to belong and enjoy economic growth and success.

## OUR PASSION

Representation. Resources. Access. Connections. Belonging. Growth.

## REPRESENTATION BY INDUSTRY



\*Other categories in order of percent representation include Community and Civic Organizations; Arts, Culture and Entertainment Venues; Government and Education; Retail, Shopping, and Wholesale; Advertising and Media; Automotive and Marine; Lodging and Travel; Manufacturing and Production; Public Utilities and Environment; Legal; Technology and Computers; Pets and Veterinary; Transportation; Home and Garden; Sports and Recreation; Religious Organizations; and Industrial Supplies and Service.



**BUSINESS GROWTH**  
PREPARED WORKFORCE  
POSITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT  
INFRASTRUCTURE



# BUSINESS GROWTH

## *THE GILBERT CHAMBER SUPPORTS...*

- Economic development funding and programming to uphold and further expand Gilbert's competitive position for business attraction, retention, expansion, and tourism marketing, including appropriate economic development tools and regulatory flexibility to attract and expand high-wage jobs within the community.
- Job growth that attracts new and retains existing businesses to create jobs and increase employment opportunities for Gilbert's diverse workforce, especially in the Town's employment clusters.
- Streamlined entitlement and/or tenant improvement processes like the "Taking Care of Small Business" program.
- Historic preservation, arts, and culture to support economic and tourism drivers and growth strategy.
- Tourism and Shop Local initiatives to support local businesses, increase market share, and generate tax revenues.
- Reasonable regulation of signage and promotional displays that enhance the visibility of businesses.
- Accessibility to businesses impacted by road construction and/or closures and provision of timely notification before such construction and/or closures.
- Education and training for businesses on how to participate in the Town of Gilbert's bid process and how to establish themselves as credible vendors.
- Use of the town's Open Data platform to ensure interactive and transparent opportunities for feedback from businesses and residents.
- Stable commercial rents and accessible space for small and emerging businesses, including mitigation of long-term retail vacancies.
- Access to training, resources, and expertise for businesses in all phases of growth and development - from ideation through exit.





BUSINESS GROWTH  
**PREPARED WORKFORCE**  
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# PREPARED WORKFORCE

## THE GILBERT CHAMBER SUPPORTS...

- Job creation measures to support workforce training, retention, and upskilling to meet the demands of Gilbert's employers.
- The Gilbert Chamber Foundation's workforce readiness initiatives to unite business, education, and government partners in support of career exploration, career pathways, and local employment trends and skills needs.
- Collaboration with Gilbert's education ecosystem—including public, private, and charter schools—to align student and district training, programs, and opportunities with present and future business workforce needs.
- Pathways for certifications, credentials, micro-credentials, and degree opportunities to serve current and future Gilbert-based employees.
- The Arizona Education Progress Meter - a shared vision for meeting the state's Achieve60AZ attainment goal through the entire P-20 education continuum.



BUSINESS GROWTH  
PREPARED WORKFORCE  
**POSITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT**  
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# POSITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

## *THE GILBERT CHAMBER SUPPORTS...*

- The ability for businesses to manage the workplace and workforce without excessive local government intrusion or overbearing regulation.
- Fees and regulations that are predictable and fair and that do not burden the business owner unreasonably. Differentiate cost-recovery ratios between support requested by business and those mandated by the Town.
- A predictable and fair tax environment with transparent management of funds.
- Gilbert's tradition of low taxes, innovative services, and efficient Town operating expenses per capita.
- Long-term financing policies that balance bonding and general fund expenditures.
- Preservation of commercial and industrial zoning throughout the Town and careful consideration of requests for commercial downzoning to safeguard future business growth and expansion opportunities. Any infill downzoning requests for redevelopment should be evaluated and supported on a case-by-case basis.
- Priority of attention and investment to areas classified as Commercial and Employment land within the General Plan, especially those that lack necessary infrastructure. This investment is required to maximize their competitive position and prevent these areas from becoming undesirable and viably stagnant to development opportunities.
- Policies that encourage a diverse portfolio for income-aligned housing supply while protecting local control and private property rights.
- Public safety and dependable services to ensure a safe community for businesses, employees, and residents.
- Promotion of Character Areas within Gilbert to showcase its uniqueness and support of local businesses.
- Collaboration with non-profit organizations to serve the most vulnerable populations within our Town as identified in the community needs assessment survey.
- Preservation of natural resources to ensure long-term community resiliency.



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# INFRASTRUCTURE

## *THE GILBERT CHAMBER SUPPORTS...*

- Negotiations to pursue more significant contributions from other Colorado River Basin states, strong negotiation of Water Exchange Agreements with regional partners, and modifications to Bartlett Dam.
- Water conservation initiatives that responsibly protect our community's water supply while preserving businesses' operational needs and limiting their expenses related to mandated conservation efforts.
- Strategic planning and investments in the Heritage District, prioritizing business accessibility, connectivity, circulation, walkability, and expansion of public parking options.
- Innovative transportation solutions, such as public-private partnerships, to improve the movement of people and goods, foster job creation, connect employees to job centers, and enhance economic development.
- Regional transportation needs assessments and funding options, as well as advocacy of these projects, in partnership with the East Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance and East Valley mayors.
- Continued investment in Mesa Gateway Airport as an East Valley economic driver.
- Attention to infrastructure and amenity gaps within aging areas to ensure all corridors remain desirable locations for businesses to invest and provide quality employment opportunities.
- Continued redevelopment of the Northwest Growth Area.
- Regular and ongoing assessment of long-term maintenance and replacement costs, including reasonable financial options to support and enhance Town infrastructure.
- Technological investments to ensure streamlined business processes and internal efficiencies.



# CHAMBER LEADERSHIP

## BOARD OFFICERS:



**Matthew Harrison**  
*Chairman*  
Deloitte



**Dan Kovochich**  
*Chair-Elect*  
SRP



**Karen Camblin**  
*Treasurer*  
Guild Mortgage Company



**Constance Lemere**  
*Public Policy and Fundraising*  
Employee Benefit Exchange Corp.



**Kevin De Rosa**  
*Business Growth & Development*  
Advance Champion Supply



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*Immediate Past Chair*  
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**Kevin Bishop**, RCP Community Management

**Christie Boutain**, Meadows Bank

**Kelley Keiffer**, Banner Gateway Medical Center

**Mike Meyers**, Northrop Grumman

**Mark Newman**, Newman Realty

**Robert Pizorno**, Tilson

**Ashton Princell**, APS

**Faith Roberts**, M & M Lighting

**Dallas Sloan**, Colair Beauty Lounge & Med Spa

**Susan Stephensen**, Arizona State University

## STAFF:

**Sarah Watts**, President & CEO

**Josh Enders**, Business Development Director

**Amy Gerken**, Events Director

**Elaine Kessler**, Workforce & Community Partnerships Director

**Antoinette Vasquez**, Business Development Director

**Desirae Barkan**, Marketing Manager

**Nicole Charmoli**, Foundation Programs Manager

**Amber Stricklin**, Data & Operations Manager

**Marty Tomljenovic**, Events Manager

**Emma Breid**, Executive Assistant

## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

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Robin Belley, Gilbert City Lifestyle

Danna Bergstrom, Bergstrom Financial Services

Kevin Bishop, RCP Community Management

Susan Brechbill, Brechbill Consulting, LLC

Morgan Carr, Cox Communications

Julie Graham, Dignity Health

Matthew Harrison, Deloitte

Jasmine Holmes, 910 West

Dan Kovochich, SRP

Constance Lemere, Employee Benefit Exchange Corp.

Adam Lewis, My House Manager AZ

Jon Olson, Boost a Foster Family, Inc.

Andi Ott, Doghaus Biergarten

Luke Palmer, Everest Air

Robert Pizorno, Tilson

Ashton Princell, APS

Scott September, CeCe's Hope Center

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Emily Staples, FASTSIGNS of Gilbert

Susan Stephensen, Arizona State University

Matt Streeper, SRP

John Webster, Executive Millwork and Cabinetry

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