



June 14, 2023

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Governor
State of Arizona
Office of the Governor
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Hobbs:

The East Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance (EVCCA) strongly encourages you to **VETO SB 1246 election; transportation tax; Maricopa County**. The EVCCA is the largest chamber of commerce organization in Arizona, with nearly 5,000 member businesses represented by seven chambers in the East Valley, including Apache Junction, Carefree/Cave Creek, Gilbert, Mesa, Queen Creek, Scottsdale, and Tempe. The EVCCA believes the legislation falls far short of meeting the needs of the East Valley business community. A veto of SB 1246 would clearly communicate to the Legislature that their constituents expect a better plan.

This is the most important economic development issue facing Arizona this year. Proper investment in transportation has far greater economic development implications than just the basic purpose of moving goods and people from one place to another. An efficient and effective transportation system improves productivity, which is a central component of economic growth. Businesses considering Arizona as a future home take the Valley's transportation system into account as they compare data and efficiencies between the state and other countries.

We encourage you to veto the plan and direct the Legislature to adopt a comprehensive multimodal plan that addresses each community's own unique transportation priorities through a cooperative regional agreement. A plan should include the following:

- Multiple modes with proper investments in roads and transit;
- The fixed guideway transit systems our urban regions need;
- The roads that our growing communities need;
- The ability to adapt to future transportation needs; and
- Connectivity between population centers and job centers.

Time is of the essence. The legislative delay in forwarding an appropriate plan has already cost our taxpaying businesses through higher interest rates, increased project labor costs, and material inflation. Transportation projects in the East Valley, West Valley, and throughout Phoenix are not moving forward due to a lack of dedicated funding past December 31, 2025. Additionally, increased congestion will lead to decreased air quality which may jeopardize the return of federal highway dollars to Arizona.

We respectfully request that you veto SB 1246 and direct the Arizona Legislature to send you a plan that meets the region's needs.

Sincerely,

Jän Simon
2023 Chair
East Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance

Mary Ann Przybylski, IOM
President and CEO
Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce

Steve Feld, MBA
President and CEO
Carefree Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce

Sarah Watts, IOM
President and CEO
Gilbert Chamber of Commerce

Sally Harrison, IOM
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Mesa Chamber of Commerce

Chris Clark, IOM
President and CEO
Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce

Mark Stanton
President and CEO
Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce

Colin Diaz, ACE, IOM
President and CEO
Tempe Chamber of Commerce

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