

# The Arizona We Want: The Decade Ahead

## Executive Summary

The mission of the Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA) is to bring Arizonans together to create a stronger and brighter future for our state. CFA has long believed that the best way to discover how Arizonans view their community and our state — and what they want for the future — is to ask them.

The most recent Gallup Arizona Survey builds and expands upon the first-of-its-kind Gallup survey sponsored by CFA in 2009. The findings became the foundation for *The Arizona We Want*, a shared vision of success based on what matters most to Arizonans that serves as a touchstone for leaders and communities across the state, informing planning and driving action.

Fielded in late summer and early fall of 2020, the latest Gallup Arizona Survey is the most comprehensive and representative survey of its kind in the state. The results show that as Arizonans we have much in common, agree on more than we disagree, and share a set of core public values. The findings identify what matters most to Arizonans as we look ahead to the next 10 years, highlight where there is work to do, and name the actions on which Arizonans overwhelmingly agree are most needed to create *The Arizona We Want*.

## Our Major Findings:

- **Most Arizonans are proud to live in Arizona, but many are uncertain about the state's future.**
- **Arizonans overwhelmingly agree on seven shared public values. These are issues on which 70% or more of Arizonans agree - with strong support across geography, income, education level, political affiliation, race, and ethnicity.** These shared public values are the foundation for *The Arizona We Want*.
- **Arizonans agree on what we want for the future, but we have not yet realized these aspirations for all Arizonans.** The findings highlight areas where further examination and work is needed, including where we have common concerns about the future for our state and gaps between shared desired outcomes and how many Arizonans are experiencing life today.
- **Arizonans want action.** The results identify a set of 42 actions across major issue areas that Arizonans clearly agree are needed to move our state forward over the next ten years.

## A Call to Action to Build The Arizona We Want:

We all have a role to play in achieving *The Arizona We Want*. Here is how you can get started:

- Dive into the *The Arizona We Want: The Decade Ahead* report and share the findings.
- Explore how the findings align with your community's or organization's goals and actions.
- Use the findings and data to drive long-term decisions and action.
- Work with others through local, regional or state initiatives to make progress toward the shared public values and actions. Use the Agenda for Arizona's Future (back of this page) as a guide.
- Partner with CFA on data, convenings, and action.

# An Action Agenda for Arizona's Future

## OUR SHARED PUBLIC VALUES\*:

### 1 EDUCATION

A highly educated and skilled population

### 2 HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Affordable healthcare that covers preexisting conditions and provides accessible mental health services

### 3 JOBS AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Good-paying jobs and the education and training needed for all Arizonans to fully participate in a vibrant economy

### 4 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Sustainable practices that protect our air, land and water, and support a high quality of life for all

### 5 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

Civic engagement that solves problems and democracy that works for all

### 6 FAIR, JUST AND EQUITABLE SYSTEMS

Fair, just and equitable treatment for all

### 7 IMMIGRATION REFORM

Comprehensive immigration reform, including a pathway to citizenship and support for "DREAMers"

## ACTIONS TO DRIVE ARIZONA FORWARD\*:

### EDUCATION

- Ensure all Arizona public schools have highly qualified teachers and principals.
- Increase the number of Arizona high school graduates that enroll in universities, community colleges or technical/trade schools.
- Close gaps in educational outcomes for vulnerable populations (e.g., low-income students, students with disabilities, English language learners).
- Provide affordable, accessible and reliable internet and technology to all students.
- Make civics education a priority in K-12 education.
- Structure the school day and school year to better match the needs of working parents.
- Reduce the financial barriers to attending college.
- Give Arizona schools the flexibility to tailor learning to each child.
- Spend more money on K-12 public education

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- Guarantee affordable healthcare and insurance for Arizonans with preexisting health conditions.
- Make mental health services available and affordable for all Arizonans who need them.
- Ensure all Arizonans can get quality healthcare without risk of financial harm.
- Expand public reporting on the quality of hospitals and healthcare facilities.
- Improve state-level management of public health emergencies.
- Expand programs to reduce substance abuse.
- Guarantee coverage of telemedicine services by health insurance providers.
- Increase access to wellness programs and alternative medicine.
- Expand Arizona's Medicaid (AHCCCS) program to include more lower-income residents.

### JOBS AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

- Create more opportunities to build careers in Arizona, especially for young people.
- Improve economic stability for lower-wage workers through improved work benefits, greater education and training, and opportunities to advance.
- Improve pay equality and opportunities for promotion.
- Provide more affordable, high-quality options for childcare.
- Ensure equitable and inclusive economic recovery.

### ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

- Preserve and protect Arizona's rivers, natural areas and wildlife.
- Put regulations in place to protect rural water supplies.
- Increase spending and measures to prevent forest fires on state land.
- Reduce the heat island in our urban areas and across the state.
- Protect and expand open spaces for parks and outdoor recreation.
- Improve air quality.
- Transition to clean energy.

### CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

- Create ways to come together to better understand and work through our differences.
- Ensure a more responsive, transparent, data-driven culture in elected leadership.
- Create a pipeline of civic leaders who are thinking long-term about the future.
- Offer early in-person voting over multiple weeks leading up to election day.
- Offer automatic voter registration when applying for a state ID/driver's license.
- Send all registered voters a ballot by mail, while maintaining in-person voting options.

### FAIR, JUST AND EQUITABLE SYSTEMS

- Address systemic racism as a key issue for the future success of the state.
- Work to combat discrimination on the basis of gender, religion or sexual orientation.
- Work to ensure the criminal justice system treats everyone fairly.
- Reform Arizona prisons to focus more on rehabilitation, including substance abuse, mental health, and reentry programs and services.

### IMMIGRATION REFORM

- Enact comprehensive immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship.
- Create a path to citizenship for DACA recipients / "DREAMers" (residents without lawful immigration status who were brought to Arizona as children).

\*supported by 70% or more of Arizonans