

KEY POINTS FROM FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL ON ARIZONA'S ECONOMY

IMPACT OF THE ECONOMY ON OUR COMMUNITY

- Small and family owned businesses were forced to close their doors during the recession.
- Tourism is a major source of income in Arizona, particularly winter visitors.
- The state of the economy affects the quality of life, especially for working families.
- A weak economy impacts housing development, job opportunities, and agricultural production.
- The vibrancy of the economy affects the availability of funds to invest in education and community services.



ARIZONA'S STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES

- Our cost of living is lower than many other areas.
- Being located near the border and within easy access of large populated areas encourages tourism.
- The natural environment is attractive along with the milder climate.
- We need to increase the number of qualified people to do the jobs available.
- Our education system needs improvement to attract new corporations.

BEST WAYS TO SUPPORT A VIBRANT AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

- Invest in our education system at all levels and make it more accessible.
- Encourage more trade and commerce across the border.
- Research more ways to utilize our natural resources, like solar energy.
- Improve Arizona's reputation through a state appreciation campaign.
- Support our local businesses through incentives and purchasing.



MESSAGES TO ARIZONA'S ELECTED LEADERS

- Focus on long-term education.
- Invest in our infrastructure to attract businesses and enhance mobility.
- Pay attention to the needs and aspirations of the middle class.
- Leaders at the community, state and tribal level all need to work together for the betterment of all.
- Create a receptive business climate with competitive pay.

COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

- Become engaged with our representatives in local and state government.
- Shop locally and support local businesses.
- Speak up for what we want to see changed and be part of advocacy groups.
- Educate ourselves and others on economic issues.
- Share what I have learned at the Future Leaders Town Hall at my school and in my community.



Future Leaders Town Hall locations throughout the state:

- Peoria - Rio Vista Recreation Center
- Prescott - Yavapai College
- Yuma - Arizona Western College
- San Luis - Arizona Western College
- Tucson - Pima Community College, Community Campus
- Flagstaff – NAU
- Sierra Vista - Cochise College
- Cottonwood – Yavapai College

"The Future Leaders Town Hall was an excellent opportunity for students to learn more about how they can get involved in the government and share their ideas."

Matthew, student participant at the Future Leaders Town Hall, Peoria.