

# KEY POINTS FROM FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL ON “FINANCING ARIZONA’S FUTURE”

## PRINCIPAL ATTRIBUTES AND GOALS OF ARIZONA’S GOVERNMENT FINANCING SYSTEM

- Focus on vertical equity and efficiency to ensure forward progress and equality.
- Provide a balance in the distribution based on our most pressing needs.
- Redistribute the tax burden based on ability to pay.
- Increase funding for education at all levels.
- Ensure that long-term tourists pay their share of taxes.

## SUCCESS OF GOVERNMENT FINANCING SYSTEM IN MEETING SHORT AND LONG TERM NEEDS

- Emphasis has been on temporary fixes for permanent problems.
- Funds disbursed for education and public services are not adequate.
- Spending on correctional facilities is high compared to other priority needs.
- Rebalance funding to focus on education, infrastructure, the environment and healthcare.
- Continue support to preserve unique state resources.

## STRENGTHENING AND IMPROVING ARIZONA’S GOVERNMENT FINANCING SYSTEM

- Use tax brackets as guidelines and make the tax system more understandable.
- Emphasize proportional distribution and transparency in the state budget.
- Consider some tax increases to fund our growing needs.
- Find and establish new industries to provide more revenue.
- Provide a mechanism for the people to give greater input and feedback.

## MESSAGES FOR ARIZONA’S ELECTED LEADERS

- Increase funding for education to create financially viable communities.
- Be accountable for decisions and actions related to revenue and funding.
- Provide more oversight of how budgeted funds are used.
- Improve the accessibility of voting to increase citizen participation.
- Increase the information to the public on where the funding is going.

## COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

- Contact local legislators to communicate our needs and interests.
- Educate ourselves on the government financing system.
- Keep up with pending legislation.
- Vote.
- Promote involvement in policy discussions in our communities.

*“It’s the best way to not only inform but motivate students to get involved not only in the political process but the channels of government so that the government best represents them.”*

– Caleb Webb, Cochise College, Sierra Vista Campus

*"The conversations held at the Future Leaders Town Hall really resonates with the students. In a peer-to-peer environment where students don't hold back and feel comfortable speaking, students realize their potential to make big changes in the future of Arizona and feel empowered to enact change."*

– Andi DeBellis, Student Activities Manager, Cochise College

### **FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL LOCATIONS:**

Mesa Community College • Arizona State University  
Arizona Western College - Parker Learning Center & San Luis Learning Center  
Central Arizona College - Aravaipa Campus  
Cochise College - Benson Center, Sierra Vista Campus & Willcox Center  
South Mountain Community College • Yavapai College - Prescott Campus



*"The Future Leaders Town Hall was a culmination of youth's perspective, voice, and comprehensive desire for change - all in one place. It was impactful being in a room where the discussion centered on such important concepts, like the financial structure of Arizona, which affect everyone."*

– Christopher Frias, Student, Arizona State University