

## ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS

# 2025 LEGISLATIVE POLICY POSITIONS

### ABOUT US

The Arizona Board of Regents is the governing body for the state's public universities – Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and the University of Arizona – providing academic, operational and fiscal oversight.

### OUR MISSION

The board is committed to ensuring access to public universities for Arizona students, promoting new discoveries through research, extending the benefits of university activities to all Arizonans, and maximizing the benefits of the state's investment in public higher education.

### VISION

The Arizona Board of Regents seeks to provide leadership and a unifying voice on key higher education issues and to influence public policy through advocacy and initiatives founded upon evidence based research. Synergies from a unified higher education system will provide access and the highest quality education to Arizona's citizens.

The Arizona public universities provide bachelor's level and higher public education, advance human knowledge through scholarly research and creative expression, and serve key roles as major partners in statewide economic development and community advancement.

### HISTORY


In 1864, the first Territorial Legislature authorized the establishment of the University of Arizona and provided for the management, direction, governance and control by a Board of Regents. The state colleges, one in Tempe and one in Flagstaff, were governed by a three-member State Board of Education that included the superintendent of public instruction and two members appointed by the governor.

In March of 1945, the governor signed House Bill 136 uniting the governing boards of the university and state colleges of Arizona. The authority of the Board of Regents expanded to include the Arizona State Teachers College at Tempe (since 1958 Arizona State University), and Arizona State Teachers College at Flagstaff (since 1966 Northern Arizona University).

Increase  
postsecondary  
access and  
attainment for  
Arizona students;  
seek solutions to  
societal challenges;  
and to do both  
while increasing  
quality,  
affordability and  
efficiency.

— OUR PROMISE TO ARIZONA





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-ABOR Vision Statement

## **BACKGROUND**

As a creation of the Arizona Constitution, the Arizona board of Regents has the statutory responsibility to govern the state's public universities and now provides superior instruction to more than 250,000 students. Upon graduation, these students join the workforce equipped with the essential competencies and skills that fuel Arizona's robust economy.

The university presidents and ABOR's executive director — together constituting the Enterprise Executive Committee (EEC) — are responsible for the management of the institutions under the jurisdiction of the board, as set forth in board policy and subject to applicable law.

The board and EEC work collaboratively with a myriad of policymakers and staff members to obtain and preserve the statutory authority and financial support necessary to achieve this mission.

## **LEGISLATIVE POLICY POSITIONS**

In support of ABOR's mission, vision, and promise to Arizona, this document details the board's objectives and policy positions for the 2025 legislative session. These adopted legislative policy positions serve as general guidance that authorizes the designated board staff to advocate for and take positions on legislation that secures sustainable revenue and protects board interests.

## **SECURING SUSTAINABLE REVENUE**

The board is committed to providing an accessible and affordable high-quality education through its public universities. The funding that enables this comes from several sources including tuition and fees, State General Fund, Arizona State Lottery distributions, Arizona State Land Trust distributions, and Technology and Research Initiative Fund (TRIF).

### **ABOR SUPPORTS**

- Enactment of its fiscal year 2026 budget request, including restoring recent state funding cuts, obtaining dedicated and sustainable long-term investments from the state, and enhancing federal support across all areas.
- Fully funding statutorily required programs including the Arizona Promise Program, Arizona Teacher's Academy and existing unfunded tuition waivers.

## **ABOR OPPOSES**

- Reductions in funding allocation from the State General Fund, Arizona State Lottery funds, Arizona State Land Trust funds, or TRIF.
- New tuition and fee waivers unless fully funded by the state.
- Redirecting state support for scholarships or tuition waiver programs from the public universities to other institutions and entities.
- Legislation that would directly or indirectly substantially increase the cost of operating the universities.
- Limiting or removing ABOR's authority to allocate and expend tuition and fee revenue.
- Limiting the universities' ability to maximize the value of land and other capital assets within their portfolios.
- Limiting the types of financial transactions available to develop university lands.

## **ABOR MAY SUPPORT OR BE NEUTRAL ON**

- Creation of new tuition waivers that are fully funded by the state through new or repurposed funding.

## **PROTECTING BOARD INTERESTS**

The board has a constitutional and statutory obligation to oversee Arizona's public university system. To accomplish this mission, the board relies on its legal authority. This allows the board to maximize the accessibility and affordability of its universities. Examples of this authority include board policy and rulemaking, tuition and fee setting, establishing academic requirements, and providing for the preservation of freedom of expression.

The board also plays a critical role for postsecondary attainment and improving overall college readiness for Arizona students. Success in these endeavors is supported by maintaining and enhancing the requisite authority.

## **ABOR SUPPORTS**

- Initiatives that strengthen the coordination with other institutions to improve student mobility.

## **ABOR OPPOSES**

- Eliminating or substantially altering the board's exemptions from state rulemaking, procurement, and personnel laws and rules.
- Limiting the board's authority to provide for the maintenance of public order on university campuses.
- Limiting the board's authority to establish academic requirements.
- Limiting the board's authority to provide for the preservation of freedom of expression and free and open inquiry.
- Limiting or removing the board's authority to govern university real assets.
- Legislation that would place at risk Arizona's public universities' ability to compete in intercollegiate sports.
- Restricting authority to offer or administer the Optional Retirement Program.