

# The Arizona We Want: The Decade Ahead

*A comprehensive report on the findings of Center for the Future of Arizona's latest Gallup Arizona Survey*

## Gallup Survey Reveals the Priorities of Arizonans

Prepare for upcoming debates, forums, and other discussions by reviewing the following research from [Center for the Future of Arizona \(CFA\)](#) that reveals the important issues and related actions identified by Arizonans.

CFA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that brings Arizonans together to create a stronger and brighter future for our state. As part of this work, CFA listens to Arizonans to discover how they view their community and our state and what they want for the future.

CFA conducted its second decennial [Gallup Arizona Survey](#) from August to October 2020, which built and expanded upon the original 2009 Gallup Arizona Survey and refreshed understanding of The Arizona We Want, Arizonans' shared vision and ideals for the future. It is the most comprehensive and representative survey of its kind in the state:

- **Delivered to over 29,000** households and **conducted in English and Spanish** via mail and web.
- A large **sample size of over 3,500** Arizona residents ensured it is **statistically accurate for all regions and demographic groups** – from across rural and urban geographies, and all ages, incomes, ethnicities, and political affiliations.
- The **Gallup organization** was selected to conduct the survey because it is the gold standard – the best known and most widely respected name in the world for gathering and reporting public opinion.

The **results show that Arizonans have much in common, agree on more than we disagree**, most notably, on a set of **core public values and actions**. The findings identify what matters most to Arizonans and name the actions on which Arizonans overwhelmingly agree are most needed to create The Arizona We Want. This document provides a summary of findings; download the entire report at [bit.ly/tawwreport](https://bit.ly/tawwreport).

## The Shared Public Values of Arizonans

*This set of Shared Public Values is defined by where 70 percent or more of Arizonans across the vast expanse of the state, in cities, towns, and rural communities, across age, race and ethnicity, education, and political affiliations overwhelmingly agree in the latest Gallup Arizona Survey.*

- 1 Education Shared Public Value: A highly educated and skilled population**  
**84%** Believe a highly educated and skilled population is good for the state's economy and **89%** believe that every child in Arizona deserves an excellent education regardless of family or personal circumstance

## **Where Arizonans Agree Action is Needed (% Important/Agree)**

- **92%** Ensure all Arizona public schools have highly qualified teachers and principals.
- **82%** Increase the number of Arizona high school graduates that enroll in universities, community colleges, or technical/trade schools.
- **79%** close gaps in educational outcomes for vulnerable populations (e.g., low-income students, students with disabilities, English language learners).
- **79%** Provide affordable, accessible, and reliable internet and technology to all students.
- **76%** Make civics education a priority in K-12 education.
- **75%** Structure the school day and school year to better match the needs of working parents.
- **75%** Reduce the financial barriers to attending college.
- **75%** Give Arizona schools the flexibility to tailor learning to each child. (84% among those with children.)
- **73%** Spend more money on K-12 public education.

## **2 Health and Well-Being Shared Public Value: Affordable healthcare that covers preexisting conditions and provides accessible mental health services**

### **Where Arizonans Agree Action is Needed (% Important/Agree)**

- **87%** Guarantee affordable healthcare and insurance for Arizonans with preexisting health conditions.
- **86%** Make mental health services available and affordable for all Arizonans who need them.
- **84%** Ensure all Arizonans can get quality healthcare without risk of financial harm.
- **81%** Expand public reporting on the quality of hospitals and healthcare facilities.
- **80%** Improve state-level management of public health emergencies.
- **78%** Expand programs to reduce substance abuse.
- **75%** Guarantee coverage of telemedicine services by health insurance providers.
- **74%** Increase access to wellness programs and alternative medicine.

## **3 Jobs and Economic Opportunity Shared Public Value: Good-paying jobs and the education and training needed for all Arizonans to fully participate in a vibrant economy**

Arizonans ranked more good-paying jobs as one of the top issues most important to the state's future. And they recognize that education and training provide the greatest opportunity to grow careers.

- When we look at the data on job satisfaction, opportunities for advancement, and quality of life issues, including the ability to pay for necessities like food, housing, and healthcare, we see that outcomes are clearly correlated with educational attainment.
- There are significant gaps in key areas of job satisfaction among lower-income employees (<\$60k) - 50% or less are satisfied in several key areas, including work benefits, opportunities to advance their careers, education or training, equal pay, and opportunities for promotion.
- The cost of childcare is an economic barrier preventing 27% of all Arizonans with children under 18 from going back to work or school. The percentage of those impacted rises for lower-income (<\$60k) respondents to 36%, and communities of color (Black 54%, Asian 36%, Latino 30%).

## *Actions to Drive Arizona Forward*

- 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.

## **4** **Environment and Sustainable Future Shared Public Value:** Sustainable practices that protect our air, land, and water and support a high quality of life for all

### *Where Arizonans Agree Action is Needed (% Important)*

- **92%** Preserve and protect Arizona's rivers, natural areas, and wildlife.
- **86%** Put regulations in place to protect rural water supplies.
- **85%** Increase spending and measures to prevent forest fires on state land.
- **84%** Reduce the heat island in our urban areas and across the state.
- **82%** Protect and expand open spaces for parks and outdoor recreation.
- **80%** Improve air quality.
- **74%** Transition to clean energy.

## **5** **Civic Engagement and Leadership Shared Public Value:** Civic engagement that solves problems and democracy that works for all

- Three-fourths (**76%**) of Arizonans agree that they are willing to speak with others who have different views in order to solve problems. However, only 27% say elected officials work across party lines.
- Most also express a sense of shared purpose, with 68% agreeing that everyone benefits when the state does well, and 55% expressing confidence that Arizonans can pull together to solve tough problems.
- There is a strong consensus across party lines for making voting accessible and convenient.
- Arizonans are concerned about the strength of leadership. Only 28% agree that Arizona has strong leaders who can lead us through tough times. When looked at by political affiliation, the agreement was 45% for Republicans, 20% for political independents, 18% for Democrats.

### *Where Arizonans Agree Action is Needed*

- 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.
- **79%** favor offering early in-person voting over multiple weeks leading up to election day.
- **77%** favor offering automatic voter registration when applying for a state ID/driver's license.
- **73%** favor sending all registered voters a ballot by mail, while maintaining in-person voting options.

### 6 **Fair, Just, and Equitable Systems Shared Public Value:** Fair, just, and equitable treatment of all people

- Only 28% of Arizonans agree race relations in the state are good.
- Arizonans are more likely to disagree than agree that law enforcement and the criminal justice system treat everyone in the state equally.
- When asked about the state's criminal justice system, one in four (26%) agree that it treats everyone equally. There is high consensus across the state that prisons should put a greater focus on rehabilitation.

#### **Actions to Drive Arizona Forward**

- 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.
- **77%** agree with reforming Arizona prisons to focus more on rehabilitation, including substance abuse, mental health, and reentry programs and services.

### 7 **Immigration Reform Shared Public Value:** Comprehensive immigration reform, including a pathway to citizenship and support for “DREAMers”

#### **Where Arizonans Agree Action is Needed (% Support)**

- **86%** Enact comprehensive immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship.
- **86%** Create a path to citizenship for DACA recipients / “DREAMers” (residents without lawful immigration status who were brought to Arizona as children).

## Summary of 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.** Drawn from the data, the Shared Public Values clearly identify, with great confidence, where we agree and what Arizonans 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 are needed, including where we have shared concerns about the future for our state and gaps between shared desired outcomes and how many Arizonans are experiencing life today.
- **Arizonans want action.** Throughout the survey, respondents were asked about what actions they thought were important for Arizona to take over the next 10 years. The results show many actions that are overwhelmingly supported by Arizonans to move our state forward.

View the entire report at [bit.ly/tawwreport](https://bit.ly/tawwreport).

Request a hard copy via email at [marcom@arizonafuture.org](mailto:marcom@arizonafuture.org).