



# BUDGET & GOVERNMENT REFORM

BRADLEY WRIGHT, *POLSINELLI, CHAIR*

## MISSION

The Budget and Government Reform Committee supports efforts to modernize government, make it more fiscally responsible, reduce regulations, and promote private sector partnerships to improve delivery of services. The Committee supports responsive and stable government that allows the free market to maximize economic activity throughout the state, while opposing regulations and policies that negatively impact Arizona's business climate.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**REFORM THE INITIATIVE PROCESS:** Advocate for a clear citizen initiative process that respects the duty and authority of the state Legislature and provides a fair and transparent campaign finance system. The initiative system should be constructed in the best interests of Arizona broadly and should protect the system's integrity and ensure it is not exploited by narrow political interests. The campaign finance and regulatory system should protect free speech.

**SUPPORT ACCESSIBLE & SECURE ELECTIONS:** Support the preservation of the fundamental right of every eligible person to vote and promote fair and accessible elections.

**FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE BUDGETING:** Support a more transparent and fiscally responsible state budgeting process. Encourage the state to have a truly balanced budget and limit the use of accounting techniques that result in debt obligations. Support state budgeting that maintains dedicated fees and funds for their intended purposes with strict accountability and restores dedicated funds that have been diverted to help balance the state budget. One-time funds should not be used to create new or expanded ongoing government programs.





## BUDGET & GOVERNMENT REFORM

### DISCOURAGE USE OF GOVERNMENT

**DEBT:** Support limits on financing for capital expenditures requiring it be subject to strict safeguards and limitations. Limit the use of non-sustainable budget techniques that create long-term fiscal problems for the state. Promote a Budget Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund) that is maintained at a level that allows it to be used responsibly as a tool for smoothing out government expenditures through fiscal downturns. Encourage the fund to be used exclusively for established state programs during economic downturns, not to expand government services. Support the creation of a debt policy for the state, local, county, and special taxing jurisdictions consistent with fiscally responsible parameters for the use of debt financing for long-term capital assets. Safeguards should be put in place to ensure the state does not accumulate more debt than it can afford to service.

**PROMOTE PRIVATE SECTOR DELIVERY OF SERVICES:** Support state partnerships with the private sector to improve delivery of services. Discourage government from performing functions that directly compete with or are already performed adequately by the private sector. Support transparency, consistency, and fairness in the procurement process to ensure private sector entities are provided equal opportunities to compete.

