

100  
ideas  
for  
100  
DAYS

GOLDWATER  
INSTITUTE  
*in defense of liberty*



# 100 ideas for 100 DAYS

**Protecting** individual rights and promoting limited government aren't just buzzwords. Those are the constitutional obligations of our elected officials. The Arizona Constitution explains this clearly in Article II, Section 2. With *100 Ideas for 100 Days*, the Goldwater Institute provides elected officials at all levels of government a stable of ideas that will help them in that purpose.

Arizona's legislative session is supposed to last only 100 days, but since it has a tendency to run a little longer than that, this year we are offering 152 ideas that will help close the state's unprecedented budget deficit, get the government back to basics, and allow entrepreneurs to create new jobs to help pull us out of recession.

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This year we're capitalizing on the start of a new decade with our "Top 10 for 2010." These top ideas range from fundamental tax reform to policies the legislature can refer to the ballot and let voters decide this year. Each idea in this book can be enacted independently of any other and will put our state one step closer in the quest to "protect and maintain individual rights."

**A note to readers:** To aid legislators, this book is organized according to legislative committee names. Each section begins with ideas that are new to the list this year. Legislators looking for budget reduction ideas should keep an eye out for the cost saver sign. To have an idea included in next year's book, or for a briefing on any of these ideas, please contact Starlee Rhoades (srhoades@goldwaterinstitute.org) or the contact person listed with the idea.

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# 100 Ideas


## Top 10 for 2010

- 1** Allow Arizonans to purchase any health insurance policy offered in the United States.  
**Read:** [“Health Care Choice: Giving Arizonans More Health Insurance Options”](#)
- 2** Pass a constitutional amendment giving authority to the State Treasurer to determine future revenue estimates within which the budget must be balanced and give the Treasurer authority to certify budgets as balanced.  
**Contact:** [Dr. Byron Schlomach, bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 3** Lower the state’s annual health insurance premium increases by converting state employee health insurance benefits to Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and high-deductible insurance plans.  
**Read:** [“Saving with Systemic Change”](#)
- 4** Reassert legislative control over energy policy by doing away with the Arizona Corporation Commission’s Renewable Energy Standards Rules, which will cost Arizona utility customers billions.  
**Read:** [“Miller v. Arizona Corporation Commission”](#)
- 5** Adopt a comprehensive K–12 improvement package modeled after the 1999 Florida reforms, which dramatically improved performance on national tests and have helped narrow the achievement gap.  
**Read:** [“Demography Defeated: Florida’s K–12 Reforms and Their Lessons for the Nation”](#)
- 6** Create a personal-use tax credit to allow parents to deduct the cost of private school tuition on their taxes.  
**Read:** [“Fortune Favors the Bold: Reforms for Results in K–12 Education”](#)
- 7** Afford citizens enhanced protection against local government overreaches by enacting a statute that gives non-charter cities the option to adopt a Local Liberty Charter committing cities to principles of limited government.  
**Read:** [“A New Charter for American Cities: 10 Rights to Restrain Government and Protect Freedom”](#)
- 8** Promote price competition in electricity and increased electrical capacity by amending the state constitution to repeal the Arizona Corporation Commission’s power to regulate electricity rates and entry into the business of generating, distributing, and selling electricity.  
**Read:** [“Opening the Grid: How to Recharge Arizona’s Electricity System for the 21st Century”](#)
- 9** Keep Arizona regionally competitive and encourage job creation by lowering the corporate income tax rate to the same rate as the individual income tax, 4.54 percent or lower.  
**Read:** [“Corporate Tax Reform: How to Woo Business without Spending a Dime”](#)
- 10** Eliminate the capital gains portion of the Arizona income tax, especially on investment gains made within the state, in order to attract greater investment.  
**Read:** [“How to Restructure Arizona’s Tax Code: A Smarter, Flatter Tax Plan to Create Jobs”](#)

## Appropriations

- 1** Revise appropriations bill drafting rules to show total authorized spending by each agency, without reference to past spending or without indicating the amount of a budget reduction.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 2** Refer to the ballot an initiative that clearly enforces strict pay-as-you-go budgeting requirements to balance the state budget.  
**Read:** “Court Decisions Share Blame for Arizona’s Budget Deficit”
- 3**  Convene a budget realignment commission to determine state funding priorities, placing the highest priorities on functions that (1) cannot be accomplished except through state government, (2) have true public benefits that accrue to all, and (3) unambiguously result in benefits that outweigh costs.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 4**  Eliminate all corporate subsidies within state agencies, such as commodity development and promotion within the Department of Agriculture and job training grants within the Department of Commerce.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 5**  Conform the state budget to the debt limit and special law requirements of the Arizona Constitution.  
**Read:** “The Fiscal Illusion”
- 6**  Enact a zero-based budgeting rule so that spending in each department and agency is justified each year.  
**Read:** “42 Ideas for a Free and Prosperous Arizona”
- 7**  Eliminate needless and duplicative spending.  
**Read:** “It All Adds Up: Unnecessary Spending in the Arizona Budget”
- 8**  Lower the state constitutional limit on how much of the state’s economy the state government can consume from 7.41 percent to 6 percent.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 9** Enforce the laws prohibiting the use of fund sweeps when the state is in a “trustee” relationship with the fund.  
**Contact:** Clint Bolick, (602) 462-5000
- 10**  End boom and bust budget cycles by enacting a constitutional expenditure limit that restricts budget growth to the rate of population growth and inflation.  
**Read:** “Tax and Expenditure Limitations: What Arizona Can Learn from Other States”

# 1001 ideas

**11**  Allow private tourism and travel companies to assume the full responsibility of promoting Arizona as a tourist destination and eliminate public funds for the Office of Tourism.  
**Read:** “Arizona Can Offer Oasis for Tourists”

**12**  Allow consumers of art to fund artistic creativity and activities, and eliminate public funds for the Arizona Commission on the Arts.  
**Read:** “Artsy-Fartsy: Government Should Not Subsidize the Arts”

## Commerce & Economic Development

**13** Create jobs by replacing occupational licensing with occupational registration combined with either bonding or insurance requirements or enhanced penalties for fraud and negligence, which would allow for prosecution of wrongful conduct through simplified and expedited legal proceedings.  
**Contact:** Nick Dranias, [ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org)

**14** Protect entrepreneurs from excessive regulation, and enforce the state constitution’s equal privileges and immunities clause by prohibiting political subdivisions from regulating the right to earn an honest living through a harmless occupation.  
**Contact:** Nick Dranias, [ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org)

**15** Create an “Economic Liberty Act” to establish that state agencies and local governments can only enact regulations limiting entry into a trade or business if they can demonstrate that the regulation is closely related to a legitimate government interest.  
**Read:** “Burdensome Barriers: How Excessive Regulations Impede Entrepreneurship in Arizona”


**16** Simplify the regulatory climate to make it easier to start a new business.  
**Read:** “Burdensome Barriers: How Excessive Regulations Impede Entrepreneurship in Arizona”

## Education

**17** Adopt a comprehensive K–12 improvement package modeled after the 1999 Florida reforms, which dramatically improved performance on national tests and have helped narrow the achievement gap.  
**Read:** “Demography Defeated: Florida’s K–12 Reforms and Their Lessons for the Nation”

**18** Require students to pass the U.S. Citizenship exam as either a condition of graduation or to advance to the ninth grade.  
**Read:** “Freedom from Responsibility: A Survey of Civic Knowledge Among Arizona High School Students”

**19** Direct more money into the classroom by eliminating district bureaucracy in favor of school-based management.  
**Read:** “Saving with Systemic Change”

- 20** Improve childhood literacy by requiring third-graders to pass a basic skills test before being promoted to fourth grade.  
**Read:** “Demography Defeated: Florida’s K–12 Reforms and Their Lessons for the Nation”
- 21** Modify funding for early education into direct education grants for families to use at a preschool of their choice or to offset the cost of homeschooling.  
**Read:** “Assessing Proposals for Preschool and Kindergarten: Essential Information for Parents, Taxpayers and Policymakers”
- 22** Restrict the Arizona Department of Education to its statutory boundaries, and prohibit it from interfering with the approved curricula of charter schools.  
**Read:** “*Basis v. Horne (Charter School Autonomy Case)*”
- 23** Permit more charter school authorizers, including state universities and cities, as well as nongovernmental authorizers such as private universities, colleges, and nonprofit organizations, to help remove charter schools from the political process and give more quality schools a chance to open.  
**Read:** “Up to the Job”
- 24** Allow tax deductions for contributions to college savings account plans from any state, not just plans in Arizona.  
**Read:** “College Savings Accounts: How Arizona Can Help More Families Afford College Education”
- 25** Reward teachers and schools for increasing the number of students who pass Advanced Placement exams.  
**Read:** “Florida Schools Make Money the Old Fashioned Way”
- 26** Repeal state regulations limiting private colleges and universities from entering the Arizona higher education market.  
**Read:** “Deregulation Can Fix Education Crisis”
- 27** Repeal Section 15-816.02 of the Arizona education code limiting the ability of students to transfer out of schools under a desegregation agreement with the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights.  
**Contact:** Dr. Matthew Ladner, [mladner@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:mladner@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 28**  Create a school-choice option for children in failing schools.  
**Read:** “42 Ideas for a Free and Prosperous Arizona”
- 29** Create a personal-use tax credit to allow parents to deduct the cost of private school tuition on their taxes.  
**Read:** “Fortune Favors the Bold: Reforms for Results in K–12 Education”
- 30** Replace both Arizona’s Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) and TerraNova exams with a reliable national norm-referenced exam, and align Arizona academic standards to the new exam.  
**Read:** “Fortune Favors the Bold: Reforms for Results in K–12 Education”

# 1001 ideas

- 31** Prohibit any further lowering of AIMS cut scores by the State Board of Education.  
**Read:** “May the Farce Be with You”
- 32** Make all student testing data available to qualified researchers, with appropriate restrictions on student identities to protect privacy, that is searchable by district, school, grade level, and teacher.  
**Contact:** Dr. Matthew Ladner, [mladner@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:mladner@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 33** Require the Arizona Department of Education to disclose accurate, comprehensive figures on public education expenditures.  
**Read:** “A Guide to Understanding State Funding of Arizona Public School Students”
- 34** Bring transparency to current spending on programs for children from birth through age five by requiring an independent body, such as the Office of the Auditor General, to track the amount of federal, state, and local spending on child care, preschool, and kindergarten programs in Arizona.  
**Read:** “Assessing Proposals for Preschool and Kindergarten: Essential Information for Parents, Taxpayers and Policymakers”
- 35** Remedy the lack of information available on the effect of the more than \$400 million spent annually on early education programs by requiring an impact assessment of all current expenditures on student learning.  
**Read:** “Assessing Proposals for Preschool and Kindergarten: Essential Information for Parents, Taxpayers and Policymakers”
- 36** Implement savings accounts that offer the same tax incentives for K–12 education savings that are currently available for higher education.  
**Read:** “Saving for School: How Arizona Could Help Families Save for Their Children’s K–12 and College Educations”
- 37** Create alternative routes to the certification of both teachers and principals that is outside the standard education college path.  
**Read:** “Cash Cow Stampede”
- 38** Measure teacher effectiveness by assessing how much each student learns during a school year, and reward teachers accordingly.  
**Read:** “School Choice + Merit Pay = Qualified Teachers”
- 39** Do not consolidate school districts.  
**Read:** “Competition or Consolidation? The School District Consolidation Debate Revisited”
- 40** Change the deadline for a taxpayer to make a tax credit contribution to a student tuition organization from December 31 to April 15.  
**Read:** “Extra Credit”



- 41** Improve transparency of the Arizona tuition scholarship tax credit program by requiring donation recipient organizations to undergo an independent financial audit.  
**Read:** [“The Arizona Scholarship Tax Credit: Providing Choice for Arizona Taxpayers and Students”](#)
- 42** Ease the regulatory burden on charter schools, allowing them to expand or open additional campuses more easily.  
**Read:** [“Be Fruitful and Multiply”](#)
- 43** Employ universal screening that would test all students at an early age and attempt to remediate reading deficiencies before they develop into conditions that can be mistaken for a disability.  
**Read:** [“Race to the Bottom: Minority Children and Special Education in Arizona Public Schools”](#)
- 44** Review provisions for students with special needs and consider appropriate reform, including changing the funding system to eliminate districts’ financial incentive to mislabel children as disabled.  
**Read:** [“Race and Disability: Racial Bias in Arizona Special Education”](#)
- 45** Adopt English language mastery scholarships.  
**Read:** [“42 Ideas for a Free and Prosperous Arizona”](#)
- 46** Unless Congress removes federal pressure for states to “race to the bottom” by lowering their cut scores on state tests, withdraw Arizona from No Child Left Behind completely.  
**Read:** [“Extreme Makeover: NCLB Edition”](#)
- 47** Relieve overcrowding and give every Arizona child an equal opportunity in education by creating a universal system of parental choice that includes private options.  
**Read:** [“Choice Will Help Alleviate Public School Overcrowding”](#)
- 48** Remove the cap on the allowable tax deduction for contributions to college savings accounts.  
**Read:** [“College Savings Accounts: How Arizona Can Help More Families Afford College Education”](#)
- 49** Expand the tax deduction for contributions to college savings accounts to grandparents and other family members.  
**Read:** [“College Savings Accounts: How Arizona Can Help More Families Afford College Education”](#)
- 50** Institute a broad test of cognitive skills for state university students, track academic value added over time, and make the results available to the public.  
**Read:** [“U.S. News and World Report: You’re on Notice!”](#)

**51**



Identify the core academic programs at Arizona public universities, and focus growth in these areas.

**Read:** “The Privately Financed Public University: A Case Study of the University of Michigan”

**52**



Align tuition at Arizona universities more closely with the actual cost of education.

**Read:** “The Privately Financed Public University: A Case Study of the University of Michigan”

**53**



Increase the self-sufficiency and private funding of Arizona universities.

**Read:** “The Privately Financed Public University: A Case Study of the University of Michigan”

**54**



Require public university students who need remedial education to receive remediation at less-expensive community colleges.

**Contact:** Tom Patterson, (602) 462-5000

**55**



Expand existing Arizona Postsecondary Education Grant (PEG) and Private Postsecondary Education Student Financial Assistance Program (PFAP) programs and offer all college-bound students access to their portion of state funding as a grant that can be redeemed at any public or private Arizona college or university.

**Read:** “Cash for College: Bringing Free-Market Reform to Higher Education”

## **Government**

**56**



Require government offices to make public records available in an electronic format whenever the records are maintained electronically.

**Contact:** Carrie Ann Sitren, [csitren@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:csitren@goldwaterinstitute.org)

**57**

Require government offices to contact the requestor of a public record within 72 hours of receiving the request to explain how it will respond and set a prompt time frame for fulfilling the request.

**Contact:** Carrie Ann Sitren, [csitren@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:csitren@goldwaterinstitute.org)

**58**

Preserve the intentions of our state founders by amending the constitution to only allow ballot measures that restrict the power of government.

**Contact:** Nick Dranias, [ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org)

**59**

Protect due process of law by prohibiting the use of photo radar to issue traffic citations unless immediate notice is given of the infraction so that drivers are able to defend themselves effectively.

**Contact:** Nick Dranias, [ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org)

**60**

Prohibit cities from conditioning approval for real estate development on the establishment of homeowner’s associations or private covenants, conditions, and restrictions.

**Contact:** Nick Dranias, [ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org)

- 61** Promote state sovereignty by giving citizens the power to file suit in state court to stop state officials from submitting to unconstitutional federal mandates.  
**Contact:** Nick Dranias, [ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 62** Protect property rights by barring cities from demanding waivers of rights under Proposition 207 as a condition of regulatory processing.  
**Contact:** Nick Dranias, [ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 63** Promote fiscal responsibility and minimize exposure to securities fraud litigation by prohibiting cities from borrowing money for anything other than spending on core governmental functions.  
**Read:** “Securities Fraud Lawyers Take Aim at Cities”
- 64**  Require the Arizona Attorney General to outsource civil law enforcement to minimize costs.  
**Read:** “Saving with Systemic Change”
- 65** Require agencies at all levels of government to post performance benchmarks on the Internet that are (1) outcomes-based, (2) partly based in cost-efficiency expressed in outcome per dollar spent, (3) measurable, and (4) reflect the original purpose and intent of the agency’s creation.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 66** Require all governmental entities, including nonprofit, non-taxing corporations created by law, to report debt levels to the state Department of Revenue, which would then post the information to the Internet.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 67** Require elected officials to report to the Auditor General, who would then post on the Internet all expenditures of public funds—regardless of source—on all publications, flyers, billboard advertising, broadcast advertising, and press releases that include the official’s proper name and/or physical likeness.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 68** Require supermajority approval of the approving government body to enact any law that would exercise the state’s police power to regulate ordinarily harmless activities.  
**Contact:** Nick Dranias, [ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 69** Prevent needless regulation by enacting a state constitutional amendment that strictly limits the state’s police power to enacting laws or regulations that prohibit one person from violating the legal rights of another person.  
**Contact:** Nick Dranias, [ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 70** Promote accountability by enacting a state constitutional amendment that abandons sovereign immunity of public officials from civil lawsuits for damages caused by intentional wrongful conduct.  
**Contact:** Nick Dranias, [ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org)

# 100 Ideas

- 71** Enhance fiscal responsibility by amending the state constitution to prevent the Governor from using the line-item veto to increase spending or negate spending reductions.  
**Contact:** Nick Dranias, [ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 72** Prevent excessive taxation by enacting a state constitutional amendment that limits the state's taxing authority to raising revenue for functions without which the state would cease to exist as a governmental body.  
**Contact:** Nick Dranias, [ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 73** Strengthen checks and balances in state government by prohibiting the legislature from delegating power to make general law to the executive branch or any administrative agency.  
**Contact:** Nick Dranias, [ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 74** Subject all administratively created rules, policies, and regulations at any level of government to referendum.  
**Contact:** Nick Dranias, [ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 75** Require the state and its subdivisions to carry the burden of proving beyond a reasonable doubt that any law challenged in court is constitutional.  
**Contact:** Nick Dranias, [ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 76** Promote free speech by prohibiting local laws that restrict harmless, non-obscene signs placed on private property.  
**Contact:** Nick Dranias, [ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:ndranias@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 77** Safeguard the ability for private philanthropy to care for their community, their fellow citizens, and the well-being of society by passing legislation protecting the privacy of private foundations, their boards, and the causes they support.  
**Contact:** Starlee Rhoades, [srhoades@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:srhoades@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 78**  Reinstating the Privatization Review Board and giving it teeth by modeling it after similar boards in Florida and Utah.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 79**  Stop backdoor electioneering by banning expenditures of public funds on billboards and broadcast advertisements that feature an elected official or an unelected official seeking elected office.  
**Read:** "Shameless Self-Promotion: How Politicians Use Your Money to Get Re-elected"
- 80**  Prohibit government entities and agencies from expending money or using public resources to engage in direct or indirect lobbying with the judicial, legislative, or executive branches of state government.  
**Read:** "Your Tax Dollars at Work: The Implications of Taxpayer-funded Lobbying"

- 81** Increase transparency by requiring individual, online posting of all expenditures made by local and county governments, school and special districts, and any other taxpayer-supported government entity.  
**Read:** “Piercing the Fog: A Call for Greater Transparency in State and Local Government”
- 82**  Eliminate state-run regulatory boards overseeing industries that could be regulated by private associations specializing in certification, such as the American Board of Nursing Specialties, the American Board of Perianesthesia Nursing Certification, and the American Board of Opticianry.  
**Read:** “42 Ideas for a Free and Prosperous Arizona”
- 83**  Prohibit governmental entities from competing with the private leisure industry by owning, subsidizing, or providing bonding authority for golf courses, hotels, fitness clubs, and amusement parks.  
**Read:** “Golf, Anyone?”
- 84**  Enforce fiscal responsibility by mandating “managed competition,” requiring government agencies to allow both private businesses and government departments to compete to furnish public services.  
**Read:** “A New Charter for American Cities: 10 Rights to Restrain Government and Protect Freedom”
- 85** Assert state sovereignty by requiring public officials to demand that federal agencies coordinate federal policies and regulations with less-restrictive state and local ones.  
**Read:** “A New Charter for American Cities: 10 Rights to Restrain Government and Protect Freedom”
- 86** Encourage legislative control and oversight of federal funds and mandates that are currently controlled predominantly by the Governor’s office.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 87** Require the state Treasurer’s office to detail cash inflows and outflows for each state agency, including breakdowns by program.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 88** Pass a constitutional amendment giving authority to the state Treasurer to determine future revenue estimates within which the budget must be balanced, and give the Treasurer authority to certify budgets as balanced.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 89** Create an online, interactive map of state and local government entities, their jurisdictions, and comprehensive information about governance and taxes for any address in the state.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)

# 1001 ideas

- 90**  Pass a constitutional amendment, and call for an Enabling Act change, allowing for intergovernmental transfers of State Trust Lands when the land will be used strictly for public purposes (e.g., highway construction).  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 91**  Use public-private partnerships to finance state-owned infrastructure—not just highways, but also state parks, office buildings, hospitals, and school buildings.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 92** Reduce the number of special districts in Arizona that function as independent, unelected government bodies with the power to tax.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 93** Advance the date by which signatures to place initiatives on the ballot must be submitted in order to allow for careful signature certifying and judicial review.  
**Read:** “Initiative Signature Verification Process Makes a Mockery of Rule of Law”
- 94** Reiterate that the Arizona Secretary of State may not certify any ballot measure determined to have fewer than the constitutionally required number of valid signatures.  
**Read:** “Initiative Signature Verification Process Makes a Mockery of Rule of Law”
- 95**  Eliminate the Arizona Department of Racing and State Boxing Commission, allowing self-regulation in those sports akin to that found in football, baseball, and other sports.  
**Read:** “42 Ideas for a Free and Prosperous Arizona”
- 96**  Resist the urge to gamble with taxpayer funds in risky venture industries.  
**Read:** “No Venturers in State Venture Fund”
- 97** Allow the free market to prevail in automobile sales by allowing new cars to be purchased from sources besides auto dealers.  
**Read:** “Bright Idea #53: Anybody Need a Ride?”
- 98**  Reform state laws prohibiting corporate subsidies so that they apply to all counties and unequivocally prohibit all government subsidies to corporations.  
**Read:** “Regifting the Gift Clause: How the Arizona Constitution Can End Corporate Subsidies”
- 99**  Decline participation in federal programs that increase costs to the state, and fight for the right to opt out of paying for federal programs in which we choose not to participate.  
**Read:** “Arizona’s Struggle for Sovereignty: The Consequences of Federal Mandates”
- 100** Restore free speech by referring to the ballot the repeal of the Clean Elections Act.  
**Read:** “Campaign Promises: A Six-Year Review of Arizona’s Experiment with Taxpayer-financed Campaigns”
- 101** Barring repeal of the entire Clean Elections Act, streamline administrative rules and policies.  
**Read:** “New No-Fly Zone”

- 102** Change the Clean Elections Act to limit the power of the unelected commission.  
**Read:** “You’re Out”
- 103** Reform asset forfeiture laws so that no financial incentive or reward exists for law enforcement officials to seize property, and allow innocent owners to quickly recover property.  
**Read:** “Policing and Prosecuting for Profit: Arizona’s Civil Asset Forfeiture Laws Violate Basic Due Process Protections”
- 104** Afford citizens enhanced protection against local government overreaches by enacting a statute that gives non-charter cities the option to adopt a Local Liberty Charter committing cities to principles of limited government.  
**Read:** “A New Charter for American Cities: 10 Rights to Restrain Government and Protect Freedom”
- 105** Require judicially enforceable “sunrise” and “sunset” review for all property regulations to ensure needless regulations are trimmed from the books.  
**Read:** “A New Charter for American Cities: 10 Rights to Restrain Government and Protect Freedom”
- 106** Promote individual rights by mandating automatic approval of regulatory applications unless written notice of denial is given within a required deadline.  
**Read:** “A New Charter for American Cities: 10 Rights to Restrain Government and Protect Freedom”
- 107** Give cities and counties the power to replace centralized and bureaucratic zoning and land use regulation with decentralized and privately enforced restrictive covenants.  
**Read:** “A New Charter for American Cities: 10 Rights to Restrain Government and Protect Freedom”
- 108**  Check concentrated power in the executive branch, cut administrative costs, and minimize legal expenses by giving citizens who dispute agency decisions the option of resolving disputes through alternative processes, including arbitration or mediation.  
**Read:** “A New Charter for American Cities: 10 Rights to Restrain Government and Protect Freedom”
- 109** Ensure the accountability of government employees by enacting a judicially enforceable “three strikes and you’re out” law for unelected public officials who repeatedly misapply the law.  
**Read:** “A New Charter for American Cities: 10 Rights to Restrain Government and Protect Freedom”
- 110** Give citizens the power to take back their government by empowering them with the right to vote for “none of the above,” the right to vote to dissolve special districts, and the right to mandate bankruptcy filing by fiscally irresponsible cities and counties.  
**Read:** “A New Charter for American Cities: 10 Rights to Restrain Government and Protect Freedom”


# 1001 ideas


**111** Promote fiscal responsibility by closing the special district loophole that allows cities and counties to evade the state constitution's property tax and spending limitations.  
**Read:** "Stop the Special District Shell Game"

## Health & Human Services

**112** Allow Arizonans to purchase any health insurance policy offered in the United States.  
**Read:** "Health Care Choice: Giving Arizonans More Health Insurance Options"

**113** Make all health-related out-of-pocket expenses state income tax deductible.  
**Read:** "Get Same Tax Break as Your Boss"


**114**  Establish and enforce asset tests for Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) recipients.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)

**115**  Reduce Medicaid costs by capping the number of annual visits for routine care, limiting access to emergency rooms to true emergencies, limiting care more strictly to a basic set of services, and diverting a portion of Medicaid funding to HSAs for recipients to allow for some level of cost-sharing between taxpayers and recipients.  
**Read:** "Saving with Systemic Change"

**116** Broaden the scope of practice for pharmacists to allow for limited prescribing.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)

**117** Prohibit hospitals from charging patients to cure infections contracted while in the hospital.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)

**118** Require the Governor's office and state agencies to post on the Internet detailed information on all federal funds received, state matching fund requirements, and current and historical Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), Department of Economic Security (DES), and Department of Health Services (DHS) caseloads.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)






**119**  Require DES to experiment with using private contractors to provide reemployment services.  
**Read:** "Getting Back to Work: Reforming Unemployment Insurance to Increase Employment"

**120** Resist increasing the maximum unemployment insurance benefit, which would increase the average duration of unemployment.  
**Read:** "Getting Back to Work: Reforming Unemployment Insurance to Increase Employment"


**121** Lower the state unemployment tax floor and raise the tax ceiling.  
**Read:** "Getting Back to Work: Reforming Unemployment Insurance to Increase Employment"



## Public Health, Entitlement, & Retirement Reform

- 122**  Lower the state's annual health insurance premium increases by converting state employee health insurance benefits to HSAs and high-deductible insurance plans.  
**Read:** "Saving with Systemic Change"
- 123**  Begin a transition toward defined-contribution retirement benefits for all government employees.  
**Read:** "Saving with Systemic Change"
- 124**  Reduce the more than \$3 billion of the state budget related to personnel costs by capping the number of state employees at one-half of 1 percent of the state's population.  
**Read:** "Saving with Systemic Change"
- 125** Require more accurate liability evaluations of government retirement funds by basing valuations of liabilities on risk-adjusted expected rates of return, instead of short-term historical stock market averages that are often inflated during economic expansions.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schломach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 126**  Keep Arizona from falling further behind other states in getting welfare recipients back to work by ending the loopholes that allow the state to disregard Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) transition-to-work requirements that were part of the 1996 federal welfare reform efforts.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schломach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 127**  Classify all state employees as "uncovered" to make it easier to eliminate unnecessary positions and to fire underperforming employees.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schломach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)

## Public Safety


- 128**  Consider sentencing reform for non-violent offenders that includes work-release and restitution to victims to lower costs for the Department of Corrections.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schломach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 129** Promote public safety by requiring law enforcement agencies to employ transparent performance benchmarks identifying desired crime rates, crime clearance rates, public complaint rates, and response times.  
**Read:** "A New Charter for American Cities: 10 Rights to Restrain Government and Protect Freedom"

## Tax Reform, Ways & Means

- 130** Eliminate the capital gains portion of Arizona's income tax, especially on investment gains made within the state, in order to attract greater investment.  
**Read:** "How to Restructure Arizona's Tax Code: A Smarter, Flatter Tax Plan to Create Jobs"

- 131** Keep Arizona regionally competitive and encourage job creation by lowering the corporate income tax rate to the same rate as the individual income tax, 4.54 percent or lower.  
**Read:** “Corporate Tax Reform: How to Woo Business without Spending a Dime”
- 132** Create a single assessment ratio for primary and secondary property taxes for all classes of property.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)
- 133** Eliminate Government Property Lease Excise Tax (GPLET) breaks, a form of corporate welfare that drains local government and school districts of millions of dollars each year.  
**Read:** “It’s Time to End the Government Property Lease Excise Tax”
- 134** Eliminate targeted tax breaks for favored industries.  
**Read:** “Handouts for the Favored Few”
- 135** Lower the assessment ratio for business property to the residential rate of 10 percent or less.  
**Read:** “42 Ideas for a Free and Prosperous Arizona”
- 136** Eliminate the protectionist use tax, which penalizes businesses for using out-of-city or out-of-state suppliers.  
**Read:** “When You’re Hot, You’re Hot”
- 137** Prohibit publicly subsidized sports stadiums and their specialty taxes.  
**Read:** “Lawsuit Challenges Vacation Taxes”
- 138** Consider replacing the current Arizona tax system with either a flat-rate income tax or with a sales tax on all final goods and services.  
**Read:** “How to Restructure Arizona’s Tax Code: A Smarter, Flatter Tax Plan to Create Jobs”
- 139** Conform the state tax code to federal depreciation rules.  
**Read:** “42 Ideas for a Free and Prosperous Arizona”
- 140** Restore inflation indexing of the personal income tax code.  
**Read:** “42 Ideas for a Free and Prosperous Arizona”
- 141** Repeal the statute allowing certain school districts to levy school tax overrides without voter approval, ostensibly to comply with mandates from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights.  
**Read:** “Permission Required”

## Transportation & Infrastructure

- 142**  Require cities to open their transit markets to private van or bus services.  
**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)

143



Thin out traffic congestion by converting high-occupancy vehicle lanes into high-occupancy toll lanes, allowing people to pay to drive in high-occupancy vehicle lanes.

**Read:** “More Roads to Travel: A Path to Transportation Solutions in Arizona”

144

Consider construction of a toll road that runs the breadth of the state along which state fuel taxes are suspended.

**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)

145

Consider truck-only bypass toll lanes around Arizona cities that are near interstate highways.

**Read:** “More Roads to Travel: A Path to Transportation Solutions in Arizona”

146

Prohibit additional funding of light rail until the required financial audit is completed and made public.

**Read:** “More Roads to Travel: A Path to Transportation Solutions in Arizona”

147

Optimize surface street traffic by using “smart” road technology, building more bridges and overpasses, converting streets to one-ways, and improving traffic signal coordination.

**Read:** “More Roads to Travel: A Path to Transportation Solutions in Arizona”

148

Improve traffic flow by adopting lane restrictions on commercial truck traffic in urban areas during rush hour.

**Read:** “More Roads to Travel: A Path to Transportation Solutions in Arizona”

149

Base vehicle registration fees on axle weight rather than age of a vehicle.

**Contact:** Dr. Byron Schlomach, [bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:bschlomach@goldwaterinstitute.org)

### **Water & Energy**

150

Reassert legislative control over energy policy by doing away with the Arizona Corporation Commission’s Renewable Energy Standard rules, which will cost Arizona utility customers billions of dollars.

**Read:** “*Miller v. Arizona Corporation Commission*”

151

Promote price competition in electricity and increased electrical capacity by amending the state constitution to repeal the Arizona Corporation Commission’s power to regulate electricity rates and entry into the business of generating, distributing, and selling electricity.

**Read:** “Opening the Grid: How to Recharge Arizona’s Electricity System for the 21st Century”

152

Protect energy entrepreneurs from onerous regulation by barring the Arizona Corporation Commission from regulating distributed electricity facilities as public service corporations.

**Read:** “Let Consumers Go Green by Choice”

# GOLDWATER INSTITUTE

*in defense of liberty*

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