



STRONGER COMMUNITIES. STRONGER AMERICA.

Building Prosperity in Arizona: A Shared Vision for the Future

June 2026

Across Arizona and other parts of the country, working families are feeling the strain of an economy that is not delivering. The cost of necessities — such as the recent surge in gas prices, housing, groceries and healthcare — continue to rise, while wages and job quality struggle to keep up. People are working longer and harder than ever, often juggling multiple jobs, yet still finding it difficult to get ahead.

UnidosUS's recent polling of Latino* voters in Arizona found that nearly two of every three respondents cite prices and affordability as their top issue, followed closely by concerns about wages and jobs, and healthcare costs.ⁱ Additionally, more than half of Latinos in Arizona report challenges making ends meet.ⁱⁱ

Economic challenges for Latinos stem from policy and market failures that raise the cost of necessities and keep wage growth low. Instead of addressing these issues, current immigration policy instills fear in communities, disrupts local economies and makes it harder for workers and families to fully participate in economic life. Turning communities against each other will not solve these problems, but building an economy that works for everyone will.

Hispanic Economic Contributions in Arizona

Despite the challenges Latinos face, they remain central to Arizona's economy and its future:

- Latino economic output in Arizona exceeds \$117 billion annually.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **Latinos make up more than 31% of Arizona's population (over 2 million people)^{iv} and 29% of the total workforce. They have a labor participation rate of 69% compared to the overall participation rate of 61%, and yet they experience a 4.9% unemployment rate, which is slightly higher than Arizona's overall unemployment rate of 4.6%.^v**
- Immigrants in Arizona make up 19% of all workers and comprise 27% of construction workers, 21% of service workers and 21% of transportation workers.^{vi}
- Immigrants in Arizona contribute \$33 billion in spending power and \$11 billion in taxes annually.^{vii}

* The terms "Hispanic" and "Latino" are used interchangeably by the U.S. Census Bureau and throughout this document to refer to persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, Dominican, Spanish, and other Hispanic descent; they may be of any race.

Introducing the UnidosUS Economic Prosperity Agenda

The [UnidosUS Economic Prosperity Agenda](#) is a values-driven vision for an economy where Hispanic and working-class families can thrive.^{viii} It reflects what communities across the country tell us they need: **a stable home, a good job that pays fairly, the opportunity to start a business and the ability to care for family members without financial stress.**

At its core, this economic agenda is about aligning our economy with our values — hard work, fairness, dignity and opportunity — and ensuring that our economy produces material improvements in people’s lives. The agenda is organized around four pillars that shape our economy: **housing, labor and workforce, entrepreneurship, and family security.**

Tracking Opportunity and Challenges in Arizona

Below are economic indicators across each of the four pillars, which highlight both the aspirations of working families and the areas where challenges persist.

Housing

- Approximately 59% of Latinos in Arizona are homeowners, compared to the state average of 70%, and 41% of Latinos in the state are renters, compared to the state average of 30%.^{ix}
- About 43% of Hispanic households in Arizona are cost-burdened (meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on rent or mortgage payments), compared to about 32% of all households statewide.^x

Labor and Workforce

- The median income for Latino households in Arizona is \$74,900 — more than \$6,500 lower than the state median household income of \$81,500.^{xi}
- An estimated four out of five Latino workers in Arizona lack access to paid family leave, compared to roughly three out of four workers statewide.^{xii,xiii}

Entrepreneurship

- Hispanics own 22% of all businesses in the state — a total of 153,000 businesses in Arizona.^{xiv}
- Latino-owned businesses in Arizona generate more than \$30 billion per year and support approximately 150,000 jobs across the state.^{xv}

Family Security

- In Arizona, 14% of Latinos live in poverty (including 18% of Latino children), which is higher than the overall state poverty rate of 12%.^{xvi}

Building Prosperity in Arizona: A Shared Vision for the Future

- Over 19% of Latino workers in Arizona do not have employer-provided health insurance, compared to 12% of all workers in the state.^{xvii}

The Path Forward

An investment in Latino families is an investment in Arizona's future. When our economy works for everyone, our democracy grows stronger.

To move this vision forward, we must focus on actions that strengthen economic stability for all families:

- **Housing** — Increase Latino homeownership by making housing more affordable and providing support to homebuyers.
- **Labor and Workforce** — Ensure that every job meets basic standards of pay, benefits, safety and dignity, and create pathways for workers to advance and build skills at work.
- **Entrepreneurship** — Expand access to capital and strengthen support for small businesses.
- **Family Security** — Reduce the financial costs and burdens of starting and providing for a family; strengthen safety net programs such as affordable healthcare and food assistance.

The Ask

We invite partners to endorse, adopt and invest in our agenda. Policymakers, employers, funders and community leaders must play a role in advancing this work. When Latino and working families thrive, everyone benefits. That's the foundation of a healthy democracy and economy. Together, we can ensure that dignity, opportunity and stability are within reach for all families.

Endorse the agenda here:



About UnidosUS

UnidosUS is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that serves as the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization. Since 1968, we have challenged the social, economic and political barriers that affect Latinos through our unique combination of expert research, advocacy, programs and an Affiliate Network of nearly 300 community-based organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico. We believe in an America where economic, political and social progress is a reality for all Latinos and we collaborate across communities to achieve it.

For more information on UnidosUS, visit www.unidosus.org, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Threads](#) and [X](#).

Building Prosperity in Arizona: A Shared Vision for the Future

-
- ^I “UnidosUS Bipartisan Poll of Hispanic Voters: The Road to 2026 Midterms,” UnidosUS, published May 21, 2026, <https://unidosus.org/publications/unidosus-bipartisan-poll-hispanic-voters-road-to-2026-midterms/>.
- ^{II} Ibid.
- ^{III} José A. Jurado, PhD, Dennis Hoffman, PhD, and Sean Ewen, PhD, “The 2025 Official LDC U.S. Latino GDP Report 8th Annual Edition Part Two: A Quantitative Assessment of the U.S. Economy and the Pivotal Role of Latinos in Our Nation,” Latino Donor Collaborative, Arizona State University, 2025, <https://seidmaninstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/LDC-US-Latino-GDP-Report-Part-Two-2025.pdf>.
- ^{IV} U.S. Census Bureau, “Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race,” *Decennial Census, DEC 118th Congressional District Summary File, Table P9*, accessed on June 16, 2026, <https://data.census.gov/table?t=Hispanic+or+Latino&g=040XX00US04>.
- ^V U.S. Census Bureau, “Employment Status,” *American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S2301*, accessed on June 16, 2026, <https://data.census.gov/table?q=S2301&g=040XX00US04>.
- ^{VI} “State Immigration Data Profiles,” Migration Policy Institute, accessed June 16, 2026, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/workforce/AZ/>.
- ^{VII} “Immigrants in Arizona,” American Immigration Council, accessed June 16, 2026, <https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/arizona/>.
- ^{VIII} “Economic Prosperity Agenda 2026,” UnidosUS, 2026, https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/69a6c46c323803c9e717d34b/69b2d2bc624fa11f5ed0e453_UnidosUS-Economic-Prosperity-Agenda-2026.pdf.
- ^{IX} “2025 State of Hispanic Homeownership Report,” NAHREP, 2025, <https://nahrep.org/downloads/2025-state-of-hispanic-homeownership-report.pdf>.
- ^X U.S. Census Bureau, “Selected Population Profile in the United States,” *American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Selected Population Profiles, Table S0201*, accessed on June 16, 2026, <https://data.census.gov/table?t=400:Housing&g=040XX00US04>.
- ^{XI} U.S. Census Bureau, “Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2024 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars),” *American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1901*, accessed on June 16, 2026, <https://data.census.gov/table?t=Income+and+Earnings&g=040XX00US04>.
- ^{XII} Arizona Center for Economic Progress, *Paid Leave* (Phoenix, AZ: Arizona Center for Economic Progress, 2024), <https://azeconcenter.org/paidleave/>.
- ^{XIII} *Arizona Paid Leave Toolkit Fact Sheet*. 2023. <https://www.nirsonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/AZ-Toolkit-Fact-Sheet-8.29-1.pdf>.
- ^{XIV} “2025 Small Business Profile: Arizona,” U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy, June 2025, https://advocacy.sba.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Arizona_2025-State-Profile.pdf.
- ^{XV} Manann Donoghoe, Hannah Stephens, Farah Khan, and Andre M. Perry, “Charting the Surge in Latino or Hispanic-Owned Businesses in the U.S.,” *Brookings*, April 30, 2025, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/charting-the-surge-in-latino-or-hispanic-owned-businesses-in-the-us/>.
- ^{XVI} U.S. Census Bureau, “Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age (Hispanic or Latino),” *American Community Survey, B17001I*, accessed June 16, 2026, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT1Y2024.B17001A?q=texas+poverty+race+ethnicity&g=040XX00US04>.
- ^{XVII} “Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE): Uninsured,” U.S. Census Bureau, accessed on June 16, 2026, <https://tinyurl.com/55w7k4c9>.