



LUCHA

State: Arizona

Core Constituency/Target Audience:

Immigrants and the Latinx Community



ABOUT

Living United for Change in Arizona (LUCHA) is a membership-led, grassroots organization that builds power with Arizona's working families to advance social, racial and economic justice for all. Through grassroots campaigns, leadership development, advocacy and civic engagement, they work to create an Arizona in which every person enjoys equal rights, opportunities and protections.

LUCHA engages in voter registration and education, and advocates for progressive policy at all levels of government. They also provide empowerment services to immigrant communities, including citizenship classes, English classes, and the tools needed to navigate the immigration system.

WEBSITE luchaaz.org/

FACEBOOK facebook.com/lucha.arizona

TWITTER [@lucha_az](https://twitter.com/lucha_az)

INSTAGRAM [@lucha_az](https://www.instagram.com/lucha_az)

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LEGISLATIVE WORK

LUCHA is a member-led organization with offices in Arizona's three largest counties: Maricopa, Pima and Coconino. State legislative elections are core to their goal of effecting statewide policy that lifts up all of Arizona's residents. LUCHA endorses progressive champions at the state legislative level every year, and works to advocate for progressive policy within the state legislature.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2016, Proposition 206 was passed by Arizona voters by a near 20-point margin. Prop 206 provides up to five days of paid sick time for all workers, and it will raise the minimum wage to \$12 by 2020. LUCHA put Prop 206 on the ballot and was instrumental in its passing. Prop 206 has grown the state's economy by almost \$1 billion, lowered the unemployment rate, and even increased jobs in the food and hospitality industries.





ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED

During the 2018 legislative session, Gov. Ducey and the state legislature tried to dismantle Prop 206 despite voters’ resounding approval. LUCHA and community members wouldn’t let them take Arizona’s victory. They showed up in droves at legislative hearings, knocked on thousands of doors, and made thousands of phone calls to legislators until they could no longer ignore the will of the people.



ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Immigration

LUCHA’s immigration services department provides members with the resources, guidance and tools they need to navigate the complicated and unjust immigration system. Their office works directly with members and their families to help them apply for citizenship or renew their DACA or residency status. They also offer free citizenship classes and English classes to members to ensure that when they apply to become U.S. Citizens, they succeed.

Education

Arizona’s public education system has been broken for too long. LUCHA’s sister organization, Arizona Center for Empowerment (ACE), has been partnering with educators, parents and community members to fight for students and teachers through advocacy and civic engagement. ACE hosts education town halls so political candidates can explain how they will support and protect public education to their potential constituents.



STATE BRIDGES SPEAKER



Alejandra Gomez

Alejandra Gomez serves as Executive Director at Living United for Change in Arizona (LUCHA). Alejandra was born in Pomona, California to immigrant parents. She became aware of the U.S.’s broken immigration system at a young age when Prop 187, an anti-immigrant law that targeted undocumented immigrants, passed in her home state.

Her father was undocumented at the time, and Prop 187 forced Alejandra’s family to move to Arizona in hopes of escaping the dangers of Prop 187 and other anti-immigrant sentiment. Alejandra began her career in community organizing in 2007, during the beginning of Sheriff Joe Arpaio’s racially-charged criminal suppression sweeps that targeted immigrant communities. Seeing the fear and harassment her community was experiencing that was reminiscent of her own childhood, she began working with Maricopa Citizens for Safety and Accountability to organize against Sheriff Arpaio and his unfair practices.

Since her start in organizing, Alejandra has focused her work on immigration rights through large-scale civic engagement efforts. Alejandra was the Field Manager for the Adios Arpaio campaign that registered over 30,000 Latinos to vote. As the Deputy Organizing Director at United We Dream National Network, Alejandra led the organizing efforts in the fight for DAPA and an expanded DACA. Alejandra has dedicated her life to social justice and community empowerment through grassroots mobilization. She lives in Phoenix, AZ and holds a B.A. in Political Science from Arizona State University.

ARIZONA FAST FACTS

- **Current Control:** Divided Government (since 2023)
- **Gubernatorial Election:** 2026
- **Length of State Senate & House Term:** 2 years
- **Redistricting:** Congressional and state legislative lines drawn by the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission

