



**State:** Arizona

**Core Constituency/Target Audience:**

Immigrants and the Latinx community



## ABOUT

Arizona Center for Empowerment (ACE) is a 501(c)3 member-led social justice organization that develops and mobilizes undocumented working youth and adults, students, and LGBTQ individuals to strategically take ownership and responsibility to advance economic, social, and racial justice.

By building power through leadership development, citizenship, civic engagement, advocacy, and education, ACE is creating a more inclusive and just standard of equality in the state of Arizona. Income equality, protection of public education, immigrant rights, and health care are just a few of ACE's priorities in creating a better Arizona for all.

**WEBSITE:** [empoweraz.org](https://empoweraz.org)

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

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

**DONATE:** [secure.actblue.com/donate/sd003-az-ace](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sd003-az-ace)

## LEGISLATIVE WORK

In 2016, ACE, alongside its sister 501(c)4 organization, LUCHA, led a grassroots campaign to pass Prop 206, which increased the minimum wage and paid sick days. In preparation for 2025, ACE is currently engaging in community conversations to prepare for the 2025 legislative session in Arizona. Their work will prioritize expansion of Paid Family Medical Leave. ACE members have achieved numerous proactive and defensive policy education and organizing victories including:

- Hands Off Prop 206 (2017)
- Building base off SB 1070 (2.0 anti-immigrant bills) (2020)
- Educating the legislature about the importance of \$60 million for the Housing Trust Fund (2022)
- Organizing around Prop 308, achieving in-state tuition for Dreamers (2022)
- \$1 billion for K-12 education (2023)
- \$225 million for the Housing Trust Fund and homelessness relief (2023)
- \$40 million for the Promise Program, affordable college programs (2023)
- Protected Arizona's future revenue by defeating Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) (2023)



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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ACE builds volunteer-led teams that will inform policy, advocate on behalf of their issues, and lead on coalition efforts. To date, ACE has a growing base of over 22,691 supporters across the nation, and more than 17,000 members across Arizona, totaling nearly 40,000.

ACE has crafted a member leadership pathway that is structured through a ladder of engagement for members and volunteers. Seven years ago, they held more than 2,500 community conversations and listening sessions, and conducted surveys, to more deeply understand what their members want and need to thrive.

Together, ACE identified the core life-changing issues that would bring a better quality of life to working class communities in Arizona. These conversations led to the creation of the People First Economy platform, a multi-issue campaign, and ACE-led nonpartisan coalition focused on a diverse set of issues.

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## ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

### People First Economy

ACE and the People First Economy Campaign for Arizona reimagines an economy that values people over profit, empowers our workforce, invests in education, and redistributes wealth. Most importantly, ACE reimagines a state budget that reflects the immediate and long term investment needs of Arizona's people.

### Environmental Justice

ACE is co-creating people-informed budgetary policies centered around real community needs, such as clean water and healthcare. They are holding elected officials accountable for their governance decisions and their commitment to economic equity and climate action.

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## STATE BRIDGES SPEAKER



### Alejandra Gomez

Alejandra Gomez is the Executive Director of Arizona Center for Empowerment (ACE). Born in Pomona, California to immigrant parents, Alex recognized the fear and dangers of anti-immigration laws at a young age. It was legislation like Prop 187 that led to her career in community organizing in 2007.

Alex served as a campaign manager for the Adios Arpaio campaign against former Sheriff Joe Arpaio and his racially charged practices, which led to his defeat. Since joining Living United for Change in 2015, Alex has helped lead the effort to raise Arizona's minimum wage and turn Arizona blue in 2020. As an organizer of 15 years, Alex continues to strive to be on the offense and build power within Arizona. She lives in Phoenix and holds a BA in Political Science from Arizona State University.





# ARIZONA FAST FACTS

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

