

Women's Issues Network (W.I.N. – AZ) Frequently Asked Questions & Answers



Q. What are the activities included in the Women's Foundation's public policy strategy?

A. The need for a public policy strategy was first raised during our strategic planning process in 2015. In response to what our donors, volunteers and nonprofit partners asked of us, the Women's Foundation first hosted national experts from the Alliance for Justice for a workshop series called "Worry-Free Advocacy." As the next natural step, we engaged a lobbying firm to help the Women's Foundation 1.) monitor legislation, 2.) share research and issue briefs with legislators and other policy makers, 3.) participate in coalitions, and 4.) take positions on select issues at the State Capitol.

Q. What is the W.I.N. - AZ (Women's Issues Network)?

A. This free network is open to any individual, organization or corporate partner interested in issues affecting women and girls in Arizona. When someone signs up by adding their email address, they can expect to receive timely update reports, bill tracking, and action alerts throughout the Legislative Session, with clear opportunities to have his/her voice heard. Our lobbyist, Goodman Schwartz Public Affairs, will monitor all legislation that is introduced to help the Women's Foundation and our partners. They will track legislation during the 2017 session, which begins January 9th, and provide timely and relevant updates and monitoring reports. Should the Women's Foundation decide to weigh-in on legislation (for or against), we will send a W.I.N. Advocacy Alert, with how your voice can make a difference on a critical bill and instructions on how to contact key elected officials.

Q. What are some examples of issues that the W.I.N. - AZ will track?

A. As a member of W.I.N. - AZ, you can expect to receive critical updates on a wide range of issues, including: the possible repeal of the ACA, proposed funding cuts for education and social services, infrastructure stimulus and workforce development opportunities, subsidies to ensure access to affordable, quality childcare, proposed restrictions on women's health, including reproductive justice, expanded funding for TANF, and much, much more. The fight for equality for all is not over by a longshot!

Q. Avoiding duplication of services is very important to me, how does the Women's Foundation collaborate?

A. Avoiding duplication is also very important to the Women's Foundation. We regularly participate in advocacy coalitions and/or directly fund partner organizations who lead on advocacy and public policy efforts, including the incredible work being done by the Children's Action Alliance, Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, Our Family Services, Planned Parenthood Arizona, YWCA of Southern Arizona, the Arizona Alliance of Nonprofits, the Arizona Grantmakers Forum and others, just to name a few. Over 40 different nonprofits attended our "Worry-Free Advocacy" workshop series in September to learn how to start advocacy programs at their own organizations.

When it comes to advocacy and public policy, we need more voices and more organizations participating. We're launching our public policy strategy to complement and support the incredible work that our long-time partners are achieving and to help attract new partners. Are you working on an issue this legislative session that the Women's Foundation could help support? Please reach out to us with invitations to join your coalitions, provide research and resources and help mobilize. Though we have a long history of collaboration, we know we can do more.

Q. If we add contacts to the W.I.N. - AZ mailing list, do they have to voice their opinion on every issue that's covered in the update reports?

A. Every member of the W.I.N. - AZ can choose, individually, when and how they want to get involved. Signing up simply means you want the information. Whether you as an individual or you, as an organization, choose to endorse a position (for or against) on an issue is entirely optional.

Sign up today and W.I.N. – AZ
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