New Report Highlights Arizona’s Public Policy Ideas

Morrison Institute for Public Policy’s latest publication, *Arizona Ideas: Policies from A to Z for a Livable and Competitive State* describes 26 public policy ideas that have made a difference in the state. Sponsored in part by *The Arizona Republic*, *Arizona Ideas* analyzes the state in a unique way.

This one-of-a-kind publication highlights ideas large and small, current and historical, home-grown and borrowed. While many Arizonans may be familiar with these ideas, others may be surprised at the diversity of the policies and programs. For example, AHCCCS, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, and 1980 Groundwater Management Act are well known, but Arizona’s “Dark Skies” initiatives and 800-mile Arizona Trail are not. *Arizona Ideas* is expected to be an invaluable tool to encourage innovation in public policies and programs.

Good ideas are easier to talk about than to implement, and many of the ideas covered in this publication have not yet reached their full potential. Taken together, however, they reflect how the public policy process, so criticized at times, can and has produced outcomes that have improved Arizona’s livability and competitiveness.

As Governor Janet Napolitano wrote in her foreword to the publication, “*Arizona Ideas* does us all a great service. It makes us stop our whirlwind of daily activity to appreciate once again the power of ideas as the basis for public policy. *Arizona Ideas* tells us a lot about our past, explains some of our present, and pushes us to continue to plan for the future.”

“*Arizona Ideas* presents instances when innovation, or sometimes, downright stubbornness provided the ‘kick’ to address complex public problems. Looking at Arizona in terms of its ‘ideas’ versus its issues, problems, and comparisons is both novel and risky – our goal is that it will generate dialogue and spark more ideas for Arizona’s future,” relayed Nancy Welch, associate director of Morrison Institute for Public Policy.

The “ideas” discussed in the report were selected based on two key criteria: 1) Did the public policy or set of policies affect a significant population in Arizona or the entire state? And 2) Was the idea original to Arizona or specifically or significantly adapted to our circumstances?

*Arizona Ideas*, a report that recognizes Arizona’s efforts to make the state more livable, attractive, and competitive is dedicated to Marvin and June Morrison, who knew Arizona had this creative spirit all along.

(More)
Morrison Institute for Public Policy is an Arizona State University resource for objective public policy research and analysis. A part of the School of Public Affairs (College of Public Programs), Morrison Institute brings university scholarship and public policy development together for the benefit of all Arizonans. Arizona Ideas is available online at www.morrisoninstitute.org.

**Morrison Institute for Public Policy—Research and Public Policy Analysis on Arizona’s Leading Issues—The Next Big Thing.**

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