Workforce Economics

While the national economy is growing at 3%, Arizona continues to have one of the worst unemployment rates in the nation. (36th [https://www.bls.gov/web/laus/laumstrk.htm)](https://www.bls.gov/web/laus/laumstrk.htm%29)

Despite a growing influx of technology based companies, many high quality remote/ virtual workers are living in other states. Demand for certain technical and trade skills is rising but the number of qualified workers is stagnant, widening the workforce skills gap. The lack of technology in our schools is holding our kids back from a future they deserve.

To grow a more robust economy, Arizona must encourage companies to create high quality jobs, incentivize quality workers to reside in Arizona, and correct the skills gap that is holding our youth back from a successful entry into the workforce.

The economy of the future will be driven by the individual not large corporations. We must focus on lower taxes for the individual, reduce regulations, workforce education, small business and start up growth and end crony government programs designed to collect taxes from the employee and redistribute them to a few large corporations.

**WAGE: Workforce Advancement Growth Endowment**

My WAGE plan is a multi-lateral approach to addressing these issues

1. $10,000 tax deduction for all jobs with over $40,000 annual paid compensation.
	* Individual’s that earn at least $40,000 as independent contractors, self employed, personal investments or other earnings outside of direct employment will receive the tax deduction Every Independent Contractor and every employer who pays someone over $40k will get a $10,000 tax credit? I am guessing this doesn’t apply to Government jobs? Do you know how many people this will affect/Cost? Is this permanent, or only for a few years? Does it only affect after a certain date?
	* Companies that create and employ Arizona residents earning at least $40,000 with benefits
2. Relocation Tax Credit
	* $10,000 relocation tax credit for any job paying over $75,000 a year
	* Designed to encourage individuals with remote and virtual jobs to move to Arizona
	* Credited over 3 years to any worker who already has a qualifying job and relocates to Arizona permanently. Is this salary only, or does it include benefits?
3. Journeyman Business Tax Deduction
	* Program is designed to provide incentives to companies offering on the job training programs for recent high school graduates
	* One time $10,000 tax deduction for every recent graduate employed with a minimum annual income of at least $36,000 What kind of jobs does this include? Does the employer need to pay benefits, or just salary?

This can be achieved without raising taxes by ending existing corporate handout programs included with the Arizona Commerce Authority, the Arizona Competes Fund and the Workforce Investment Grant Fund. The WAGE act is designed to eliminate programs designed to support special interest groups and lobbyist. Any unused funds from the WAGE act will be returned to the tax payers.