



PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

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Purpose

The purposes of this policy are (1) to adopt a position to support a change in the form of County government, and (2) to set forth the procedural actions which the Board of Supervisors deems appropriate to be generally taken in this endeavor.

Policy

The position of the Board of Supervisors are that it (1) supports an amendment to the Arizona Constitution allowing Pima County to proceed with the option of local discretion, and (2) supports the development and passage of a locally constituted charter.

As a component of this policy statements, the County Manager is directed and hereby authorized to have responsibility for this effort. This will entail coordinating the mission with several parties including the County's Legislative Liaison to help assure legislative passage of a constitutional amendment referrals question for the 1992 ballot and a broad array of local interest for setting the local charter process in motion following a successful 1992 statewide authorization to proceed.

Background

It has long been recognized that a modernization of County Government in Arizona is needed; Further, it is widely held that some form of local discretionary authority would hold a higher chance of success in Pima County than in the other regions of the state. The Pima County Government Operations Commissions report, earlier this year, underscored these points. And, because the total process --- from inception to fruition --- may take several years to accomplish, the time to regenerate this effort is now.

Although there are a variety of names given to approaches to County modernization including Charter Government, home rule, and local discretionary authority, and a variety of local choices for implementation including a county chartered government with taxing powers, a merger-of-governments at the local level as metropolitan government or city-county consolidation [or to merely broaden consolidation of functions through an expansion of intergovernmental agreement], the decision on which option to refer to voters in Pima County would necessarily follow the legislative action authorizing such a referral.

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Background Con't

It is also pointed out that, by way of background, valiant efforts on a amendment were made in the Legislature, in the mid-to-late 1980's on this issue; and, a widely supported version required the election of a commission of freeholders whose primary task it would be to form specifics of the locally referred questions. That detailing work, obviously, will help as efforts are renewed.

Policy

Since this policy document centers on efforts to modify County government, the County Manager is being directed to execute the Board of Supervisors' positions on the issue; in doing so, the following action steps are set forth as a guideline to a November 1992 ballot (statewide) and a locally referred measure thereafter.

While the Board of Supervisors continues in its negotiation with City of Tucson officials on combining/merging governments at the local level. the County Manager shall coordinate indicated work with the following parties:

1. The County's Legislative Liaison; seek a meeting with the area's legislative delegation shortly after the 1990 general election. Request pre-filing of measure.
2. Legal representative for any additional drafting needed for constitution referral.
3. To obtain joint agreement of local metropolitan government committee.
4. Obtain reaffirmation of support for county home rule from the league of Arizona Cities and Towns
5. Continually monitor status of referral measure, once introduced.
6. Initiate citizens group [to be comprised of local community leader from civic, business, labor and other segments of the area], formulation to serve as board of freeholders to prepare locally referred question.

Responsible Department

1. County Manager

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Sunset Provision

This policy is to be reviewed for applicability and Board of Supervisor concurrence on a periodic basis throughout the process.

Effective Date: 10/30/90