Pima County Sales Tax Advisory Committee Public Hearing

January 10, 2018
Quincie Douglas Center
1575 East E. 36th Street
6 PM

Summary

Attendees
Willie Blake
Jackie Turchick
Sherry Hockett
Marco Liu
Jeannette Seitz
S. Ginn
1 other person attended but did not provide a name or comment
3 Committee members
Pima County staff
Pima County Supervisor Ramon Valadez

The hearing began at 6:10 p.m. with an introductory presentation by Chairman Wendell Long. The hearing included comments, questions and answers, and involved members of the public, committee members, County staff and Supervisor Valadez.

Main themes from speakers and those that submitted comments
All but one person supported a sales tax increase or was leaning towards supporting it. Most of those in support of the tax supported using the revenue for road repair, and only levying the tax for a temporary period.

Willie Blake (also see attached comment card for more comments)
- Make the plan plain and clear and show people what will happen with the money as people get upset when they are not informed.
- Supports the various locations for the hearings.
- We need road repair really bad and property tax reduction because both are really important.
- People vote no but then are mad when they don’t get the roads first, but they don’t understand money doesn’t come out of air.
- Yes supports this and thinks it’s worth a half cent increase.
- Supports a temporary tax.
- Poor roads are tearing up our cars.
- Doesn’t think there is any other way to get the roads fixed.
- Prefers the County manage the program, versus the RTA, because he knows the Board of Supervisors and can hold them accountable.

Jackie Turchick
- Represents the San Antonio Neighborhood Association and will try to bring a group recommendation back.
- Tends to support it all for the roads because property tax reduction would help a smaller group of people.
- Prefers a temporary tax
- Would prefer some funding for buses if it could be used for that, to reduce fares or increase routes.
Shirley Hockett
- Does not support the tax increase.
- Lives on Social Security and it is not going up.
- Knows there are road problems, but can’t afford another tax.

Marco Liu (also see attached comment card for more comments)
- Sales taxes are regressive.
- Roads need repair and poor roads do impact low income folks because of maintenance costs.
- Would be good to allocate some revenue to transit for those that use our streets differently.
- If we decrease property taxes, it would lower everyone’s burden and shift some of the cost to winter visitors.
- Leaning towards supporting the tax increase for both road repair and property tax reduction, but not set on that yet.
- Temporary, but technology is changing rapidly with automated vehicles, so temporary but for a long enough time to do planning.
- Appreciates that the cities and towns can determine their own road priorities, but if the County could have a say, it should prioritize fixing roads in low income areas first.
- If for property tax reduction, then less inclined to support it being temporary because then it would need to be more permanent.

Hearing ended at 6:40 p.m.
Comment cards attached.
Pima County Sales Tax Advisory Committee
We Want to Hear from YOU!

1. **Should the Pima County Board of Supervisors adopt a half-cent general sales tax?**
   - YES / NO / NOT SURE (circle one)
   - Comment: *Needs Road Repairs*

2. **Should the sales tax revenue be spent on road repair, property tax reduction or some combination of both?**
   - Road Repair ONLY / Property Tax Reduction ONLY / Combination of Both (circle one)
   - Comment: *

3. **Should the sales tax be temporary or permanent?**
   - Temporary / Permanent (circle one)
   - Comment: *

For additional information or to provide comments electronically please visit [www.pima.gov/salestax](http://www.pima.gov/salestax) or County Administrator’s Office at (520) 724-8661.

**Name:** *White*

**Address:** 224 E. Hidalgo  
**City:** Tucson  
**State:** AZ  
**Zip Code:** 85713

**Email Address:** *520-971-6735*

*See back for additional space to write comments.*
1. Should the Pima County Board of Supervisors adopt a half-cent general sales tax?
   - [ ] YES
   - [ ] NO
   - [ ] NOT SURE (circle one)
   - Comment: Sales tax is a more "fair" tax because everyone pays.

2. Should the sales tax revenue be spent on road repair, property tax reduction or some combination of both?
   - [ ] Road Repair ONLY
   - [ ] Property Tax Reduction ONLY
   - [ ] Combination of Both (circle one)
   - Comment: Focus on getting the roads fixed - worst ones first.

3. Should the sales tax be temporary or permanent?
   - [ ] Temporary
   - [ ] Permanent (circle one)
   - Comment: I think 10 years is a good period, then reevaluate.

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Name: Jeanne Seitz
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*See back for additional space to write comments.
Comments:

Make sure the money is earmarked/allocated to roads and cannot be spent for anything else.

I think jurisdictions should control oversight & roads selected (not RTP).

I think all roads repaired should include sidewalks, ramps, bike lanes if possible. At least prioritize transit routes.