

Pima County Sales Tax Advisory Committee Public Hearing

January 23, 2018
Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr. Library
7800 N. Schisler Drive
Marana
6PM
Summary

Attendees

Helen Gorraiz

Robert Tuceck

Erik Montigue

Beth Abramovitz

About 3 other people attended but did not provide a name or comment

Committee Chairman Wendell Long, and members Robert Medler, Anita Smith-Etheridge, Curtis Lueck
Pima County staff

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

Helen Gorraiz

- What type of guarantees will ensure that the sales tax will be used for its intended purposes?
- County has a spending problem, not a revenue problem.
- Voters voted down the road bonds so Mr. Huckelberry issued debt anyway for roads and our debt service payments are \$219 million a year instead of allocating that money to repairing roads and it'll take 20 years before we can pay that back.
- The County shouldn't be funding Worldview, soccer fields and buying electric cars when we could put the revenue towards road repair instead.
- Loss of confidence in the County Administrator and the Board.
- High property taxes.
- No, does not support a county sales tax.
- Yes, would support an increase in the state gas tax.
- Likes the RTA administration proposal.
- Asked if the sales tax would still require a 5-0 vote from the Board.

Robert Tuceck

- Recently moved to Tucson.
- Taxes were twice as high in Texas, where he moved from.
- He would not be opposed to a sales tax if it reduced property taxes to offset the sales tax increase.
- Sales tax should be temporary for the period of time that it is needed to fix the roads.

Erik Montigue

- What type of road improvements are proposed?
- Is there a plan that includes how the road improvements would be administered?
- Would cities and towns be constrained in the use of the funding?

Beth Abramovitz

- Would cities and towns be able to spend the funding on design costs or required ADA improvements?

Hearing ended at 6:45 p.m.