Pima County Sales Tax Advisory Committee Public Hearing

December 7, 2017
Cienega Valley High School
6-7 PM

Summary

Attendees
Aaron Brown
J.J. Lamb
Ed Buster
Two additional attendees (did not record names)
Pima County staff
City of Tucson staff
Committee members

The hearing began at 6:10 p.m. with an introductory presentation by Chairman Wendell Long. Since there were only five attendees, the remainder of the hearing was conversational, included comments, questions and answers, and involved the members of the public, committee members, and county staff.

Main themes from speakers
Fix the roads and come up with a way to make sure that the County cannot spend the funding on anything else.

First speaker:
- Is there a way to make sure the sales tax revenues would absolutely go towards road repair?
- Concerned that money would be used for other purposes
- Supportive of the sales tax if it actually went to road repair
- Road conditions are a disincentive to business attraction

Second speaker:
- Utility bill lists a County sales tax

Aaron Brown (also submitted attached comment card):
- Liked the idea of an ordinance that would provide assurances on how funding would be spent
- Supportive of community bonds to build schools, the City of Tucson's recent half-cent sales tax
- Supports County half-cent sales tax for road repair, for a temporary time period, with possibility for continuation if supported by an audit.
- Roads are important because they tie in to everything
- County is responsible for public safety and infrastructure so this proposal makes sense.

Ed Buster:
- Is there a backup plan if this fails?
- Are entities like Raytheon, University of Arizona and City of Tucson supportive?
- Yes, support this proposal – Just fix the roads now!
- RTA and County should work together – good to have watchdogs
- Are there new and progressive ways of building roads that the County is seriously considering?

Hearing ended at 7:10 p.m.
Comment cards attached.

12/7/17

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: _____

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: Property Tax is Deductible on federal returns.

3. **Should the sales tax be temporary or permanent?**
   Temporary / Permanent (circle one)
   Comment: 5-year trial to reauthorize

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

Name: Aaron Brown
Address: 12472 E Camino Ambato City: Vail State: AZ Zip Code: 85641
Email Address: aabrown66@gmail.com

12/7/17

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: only if the RTA administers the funds.

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: _____

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Name: J.J. Lamb
Address: 8954 E. Cardenas City: Vail State: AZ Zip Code: 85641
Email Address: jerriejean1955@gmail.com

Comments:

Sales taxes are regressive, and therefore disproportionately affect lower income individuals. Property Taxes are adequate for our area and do not need to be offset by the sales-tax. I believe our roads are critical infrastructure, and need to be a priority for our County Supervisors. The temporary sales-tax is a boost to this need, but should not be a long-term solution.

Property tax is deductible from federal returns, sales tax is not. It makes no sense to shift the tax burden away from property owners.

Comments: