

Know the Facts: Prop. 400

Peoria's Investment in Public Safety, Open Space, Parks and Recreation, and Neighborhood Stabilization



PROJECT FUNDING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

MANAGING GROWTH

The City of Peoria encompasses 178 square miles. To date, only half of the city has been developed, and new development and new residents continue to be attracted to Peoria at a rapid pace. As a result, Peoria's population has grown 50 percent since 2000.

Growth creates a need for public infrastructure such as streets, drainage, public safety facilities, water and wastewater lines, parks and libraries. In the past, Arizona cities have structured their funding to assure that "growth pays itself." However, in recent years, the state legislature has eliminated or drastically reduced a large portion of these funding sources. For example, SB 1525, which became Arizona law in 2011, significantly reduced impact fees paid by developers that offset the impact a new community creates.

Other funding mechanisms used for such improvements have also been eliminated.

- Arizona Heritage Fund
- Growing Smarter Allocation
- Open Space Impact Fee

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC SAFETY, OPEN SPACE, PARKS AND RECREATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION SALES TAX?

In January 2016, a volunteer committee consisting of citizens representing every part of the city began meeting to discuss community needs to accommodate the impending development of the second half of the city, decide what services are important to residents and consider financial alternatives to address these issues.

The group took input from many citizens. They spent months deliberating how best to maintain the current high standard of living of current Peoria residents as the city grows. Committee members also weighed the protection of Peoria's natural and cultural heritage as growth encroaches on Peoria's untouched deserts.

In June 2016, the committee recommended to the Peoria City Council that a sales tax increase should be implemented to fund projects that addressed the needs and interests of the community.

WHY SALES TAX?

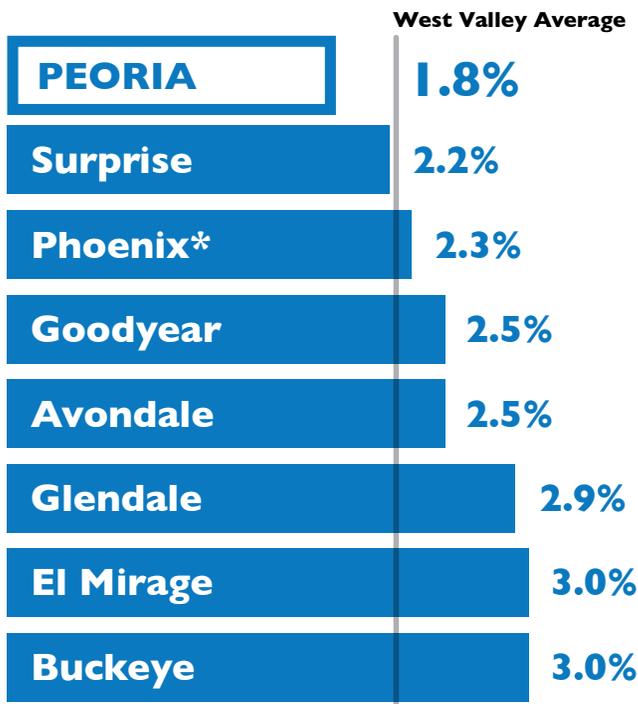
A sales tax shares the burden on residents, businesses, and visitors who come to the city. For example, approximately 60 percent of the 260,000 fans who visit the Peoria Sports Complex during the month of March are non-residents.

HOW MUCH?

If approved, this code amendment would increase the sales tax by 4/10 of 1% with revenues restricted to funding public safety personnel, equipment and facilities to enhance the public safety presence in the community; preserving desert open spaces; enhancing parks and recreational amenities; expanding trails; and improving shade and streetscapes.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.PEORIAAZ.GOV/KNOWTHEFACTS**

Sales Tax Rate City Comparison



* Effective Jan. 2016, rate increased by 0.3% for additional transportation share

WHAT IS PEORIA'S TAX HISTORY?

The City of Peoria has not seen an increase in the sales tax rate for the last decade. In 2013, the City Council reduced the retail food tax rate to 1.6 percent from 1.8 percent.

Currently, Peoria sales tax rate is one of the lowest in the entire Valley and the lowest in the West Valley.

Property tax in Peoria has not increased in 18 years, and was decreased in 2009 from \$1.49 to \$1.44 to provide residents relief as the recession continued.

The last time Peoria voters decided to increase the sales tax was in November 2005, with a 0.3 percent transportation sales tax increase, to fund various Peoria transportation projects, and as a result, Peoria residents have a well-designed and maintained major transportation infrastructure.

WHAT WILL VOTERS DECIDE?

In November, Peoria voters will have the opportunity to decide whether to increase the current sales tax rate by four-tenths of one cent to fund the public safety, open space, parks and recreation and neighborhood stabilization needs identified by the citizens committee.

WHERE TO VOTE

Polling Place Information: Maricopa County Elections Department at 602-506-1511 or <http://www.recorder.maricopa.gov/pollingplace/>.

QUESTIONS ASKED AT RECENT INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS

1. What percentage is going to Public Safety?

Current estimates indicate that approximately 20 percent of the funding will go toward Public Safety. Unlike brick and mortar projects (one-time costs), public safety is an on-going service that requires annual funding.

2. Why did the citizens committee not recommend a Sunset?

The projects, services and programs will require ongoing funding for operations and maintenance. The revenues will also provide opportunities to update and refresh city parks, trails and recreation facilities as the community and neighborhoods mature.

3. How much is the aquatics center?

After the city council reduced the proposed tax from the Citizen Committee's recommendation to 4/10 of one cent, the aquatics facility was scaled back from \$20 million to \$10 million. As with every facility that is planned and built in the city, citizens are encouraged to stay engaged by providing feedback.

4. What is the estimated impact per person?

\$4.44 per person monthly

\$138 per household annually

Source: *Consumer Expenditure Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, September, 2015*

5. When will the tax go into effect?

February, 2017

6. How quickly will the projects be implemented?

If Prop. 400 passes, the city council will convene after the election to determine the initial priorities, scope and scale of the projects. Many of the projects identified in the initiative will be implemented over the next five years. Some projects, such as the acquisition of open space, will be planned to coincide with development patterns and land sales.