

PEORIA NOW

SEPTEMBER 2016

www.peoriaaz.gov/news



A monthly publication of city-centered news and current events for the citizens of Peoria, Arizona.

Important Election Dates

Last Day to Register to Vote
Oct. 10, 2016

First Day to Cast an Early Ballot
Oct. 12, 2016

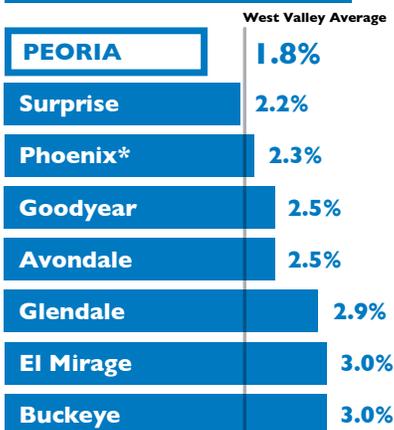
Election Day
Nov. 8, 2016

Register to vote at <https://servicearizona.com/webapp/evoter/selectLanguage>.

Polling Place Information:

Maricopa County Elections Department at **602.506.1511** or <http://www.recorder.maricopa.gov/pollingplace/>.

Sales Tax Rate City Comparison



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

Know the Facts

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

The City of Peoria encompasses 178 square miles. To date, only half of the city has been developed, and new development and 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, such as the Arizona Heritage Fund, Growing Smarter Allocation, and Open Space Impact Fee.

What is the Public Safety, Open Space, Parks and Recreation, and Neighborhood Stabilization Sales Tax?

In January 2016, a volunteer citizen committee 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 spent months deliberating how best to maintain the current high standard of living of 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 be implemented to fund projects that addressed the needs and interests of the community.

Why a sales tax?

A sales tax shares the burden on residents, businesses, and non-Peorians 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 by the voters, the sales tax would increase by four-tenths of one cent. That equals two cents on a five dollar purchase. The revenue generated would be placed into a dedicated fund, for the public safety, open space, parks and recreation, and neighborhood stabilization needs recommended by the committee.

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's sales tax rate is one of the lowest in the 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 during the recession. 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. 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 citizen committee. For more information, visit www.peoriaaz.gov.

PEORIA NOW

OCTOBER 2016

COMING SOON

Hazardous Waste Pickup



The City of Peoria is hosting another household hazardous waste event on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 8 a.m. to noon at the City of Peoria Municipal Operations Complex, located at 8850 N. 79th Avenue. Be sure to bring a Peoria utility bill with you as proof of residency and take a look at the list of acceptable items at www.peoriaaz.gov/hazwaste. There you will also find tips for handling materials and alternatives for disposing of appliances, tires, batteries, prescription drugs, and sharps and syringes. For specific questions, call **623-773-7431** or email recycling@peoriaaz.gov.

See Tyler Farr Take the Stage on Oct. 2 at P83 Party

The P83 Party is one of Peoria's signature events, attracting music fans from all over the West Valley. Along with the fabulous music, attendees can enjoy savory food and an interactive zone. Tyler Farr, a Top 5 country radio star, will be the headline act for the P83 Party on Sunday, Oct. 2, at the Peoria Sports Complex. Advance general admission tickets are \$10 and \$15 at the gate. VIP tickets are also available. For more information, visit www.p83az.com.



Get Ready for a Scare on Oct. 29

As one of Peoria's largest events, the Halloween Monster Bash is an annual event full of costume contests, games, dances, crafts, music, food, and more. This is a safe place for children to have some Halloween fun. Admission is free with a canned food item to help support The St. Mary's/Westside Food Bank Alliance. The bash will take place at Peoria Sports Complex on Saturday, Oct. 29 from 5 to 9 p.m. Visit www.peoriaaz.gov/specialevents.



PRESENTED BY
sears
VACATIONS

HALLOWEEN MONSTER BASH

FREE
Admission
& Parking

Saturday
Oct 29th
5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Peoria Sports Complex, 16101 N. 83rd Avenue, Peoria, AZ