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ARIZONA TAX RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

ARGUMENT “FOR” PROPOSITION 106

The Arizona Tax Research Association (ATRA) strongly supports Proposition 106 because it will ensure that current taxpayer dollars being diverted to politician’s campaigns are returned to the state treasury to fund higher priorities.

ATRA has consistently opposed efforts by special interest groups to earmark revenues to their causes outside the budgeting process. The so-called “Clean Elections Act”, passed in 1998, allowed politicians to walk off with millions of taxpayer dollars without ever having to compete with other important budget priorities. Since that time, while the state faced dramatic growth in demands for K-12 school funding, health care, and public safety, millions in taxpayer funds were diverted from the budget process and directed to politician’s campaigns. Next year, while state government faces another budget deficit, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) estimates that “Clean Elections” will divert \$15 million in tax revenue to fund campaigns of politicians you may not support.

The reality of government budgeting is that there is a finite amount of precious tax revenue available to meet the public’s demands. That reality forces government to prioritize its spending and direct tax dollars to those services that are most needed. Earmarking revenues outside the budget process to fund campaigns directly robs higher priority programs of funds.

According to JLBC, Proposition 106 will annually return an estimated \$11 to \$16 million in hard earned taxpayer dollars back to the general fund to support broad based public services.

Proposition 106 is good fiscal policy and the Arizona Tax Research Association encourages you to **VOTE YES.**

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