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ARIZONA TAX RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

ATRA SUPPORTS SB1182

Publicity Pamphlet Reforms

Background:

For many years, state statutes have required local governments seeking voter approval for bonds and overrides to publish a publicity pamphlet. State statutes require the publicity pamphlets to include information relating to the impact of the request on taxpayers along with the purpose for the election.

Basis for ATRA's Support:

SB1182 addresses a growing concern that these publicity pamphlets have become taxpayer-financed electioneering. Often times, the purpose statement in the publicity pamphlet for local government elections have gone well beyond providing an explanation for the purpose of the election. There should be a clear distinction between the taxpayer-funded section in the pamphlet that is factual-based and the advocacy section of the pamphlet.

As amended in Senate Finance, SB1182 specifies that the justification for the purpose of the override or bond election is limited to the pro and con statements included in the publicity pamphlet. This measure will ensure that publicity pamphlets distributed by local governments are neutral documents designed to inform voters on the purpose of the election as opposed to taxpayer-financed pieces.

ATRA ASKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF SB1182!