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ARIZONA TAX RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

ATRA SUPPORTS HB2115

Harmonize Bond Election Procedures

Background:

In 2015, the Legislature passed legislation to standardize the “ballot question” for all General Obligation (G.O.) bond election ballots. This reform was placed in Title 35, which provides election guidance for all G.O. bond questions. Prior to the standardization, there was considerable leeway in the crafting of the “ballot question” (the statement which occurs just before a voter indicates a “Yes/No” mark). While most elections since the law change have occurred in accordance with the 2015 law change, there remains some confusion due to a lack of harmony between Title 35 and school district laws in Title 15.

Basis for ATRA’s Support:

ATRA worked with legislative staff attorneys as well as bond stakeholders associated with K-12 school districts to ensure the bill provides clarity going forward. The bill does not make any substantive changes to elections procedures but rather makes clear in law exactly what is required to ensure a legal election. Finally, the opportunity was taken to remove unnecessary and redundant language.

What the Bill Does:

- Clarifies that G.O. bond election procedures for school districts, to include the ballot question, use the state standard in Title 35
- A.R.S. §15-492 is repealed because it is redundant; the informational pamphlet is covered in 15-491
- Reference to A.R.S. §15-492 are deleted

ATRA ASKS LAWMAKERS TO VOTE YES ON HB2115!