



Jackson County Voters' Pamphlet

SPECIAL ELECTION SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

CITY OF PHOENIX

Measure No. 15-78

BALLOT TITLE

15-78 REPEALS ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CITY TO IMPOSE PUBLIC SAFETY SURCHARGE

QUESTION: Should the public safety surcharge adopted by the City of Phoenix for police, fire protection, and public works be repealed?

SUMMARY: A "yes" vote would repeal ordinance No. 872 adopted by the City of Phoenix on April 16, 2007. This ordinance established a one-year public safety surcharge from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. The ordinance also addressed possible future surcharges and the replacement of an existing property tax levy by the City Council or voters after public and City Budget Committee input.

The one-year surcharge provides funding for Phoenix police, fire protection, and public works services. The surcharge will raise an estimated \$469,200.00 during its life. The ordinance dedicates \$330,000.00 of this amount for police, fire and public works budget shortfalls; \$50,000.00 (each) for minor capital expenditures for police and fire; and \$39,200.00 to provide relief for those who cannot afford the surcharge.

The surcharge is a flat twenty dollars per month for each unit of developed property within the City limits. Generally, a unit is any dwelling unit or business entity. The party responsible for paying the surcharge is the occupant of the unit.

NO EXPLANATORY STATEMENT
REQUIRED

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by the County of Jackson, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in the argument.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

STOP THE SURCHARGE - VOTE YES!

HOLD THE CITY ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE FINANCIAL PROBLEM THEY CREATED by making decisions resulting in this SHORT TERM dilemma and refusing to change any of those decisions to solve our problem. These decisions add up to more than the ESTIMATED current shortfall amount.

The City's solution was to take the money forever with a surcharge rather than ask for voter approval. Facing so much opposition, the City decided to collect the money first and only seek voter approval if additional revenue was needed for the next year. But the ordinance provides the means of enacting another surcharge ordinance without ever placing the matter before the voters again! They had every opportunity to write the ordinance correctly but they didn't!

The City, with the highest combined tax rate in this area, is threatening to take away emergency service personnel if this surcharge is repealed. We have all ready paid for these police officer and fire fighter positions with the current Public Safety Local Option Tax.

Ask yourself, if the surcharge is collected will it ever go away? There is no control on spending if the surcharge is collected. There is no relief from the surcharge but there is from property taxes!

The City only needs to trim spending for a year until the current issues are resolved. We can't take money from someone else when we make poor financial decisions. We have to live within our means, Make the City live within its' means.

We have the right to tell our elected officials what we think of their performance. This is that opportunity.

If we don't repeal this ordinance, be prepared for the elected officials to see this as a sign we are giving them permission to enact another ever increasing, never ending surcharge like they first tried.

Send a loud and clear message about their decision to take our money without asking. Repeal the ordinance, vote "Yes".

*(Information furnished by Stephen M. Brown,
Referendum Chief Petitioner)*