

June 13, 2014



Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

The Tucson Hispanic Chamber requests that the Board of Supervisors consider the economic impact of the proposed Budget and its recommendation to increase primary property taxes. The proposed budget currently recommends an increase of 16.7% which is a drastic increase to our business community. Such an increase impacts the vitality of our existing business community and may deter companies from relocating to our County.

While homes and small businesses are certainly affected, this impacts our largest employers in our community the most. Chamber companies with multiple locations have expressed their concern over a six-figure increase in property taxes in Pima County. Such a tax increase may impact their ability to expand and to hire new positions in Pima County as they consider the financial burden compared to other Counties in the State.

Our community has begun to recover from the economic downturn, but it's been very slow. We are not ready to "right" the budget shortfalls that the County has experienced over the last several years. We ask that the Board consider each of the components of the proposed primary property tax carefully. Tough decisions within the County to delay projects or forego improvements must be made. Funds must be found elsewhere for priority initiatives the County wants to develop.

The newly proposed 33.27 cent increase raises the rate from \$3.665 (approved in May) to \$4.2779 per \$100 of assessed value. This is a total of 61.14 cents this year or an increase of 16.7%. Components of this increase include:

- 6.89 cents for Certificates of Participation
- 3.55 cents for the Sheriff's Department
- 2.48 cents for Indigent Criminal Defense
- 3.00 cents for the Stadium District
- 8.37 cents for Information Technology
- 1.75 cents for Facilities Management
- 0.34 cents for Wildcat Dump Enforcement
- 6.89 cents for Road Repair

On Tuesday, you will have a vote on each of these components. We ask that you reconsider the primary property tax increase for the future. Our business community continues to recover financially from the recent economic downturn and needs time and predictability to become healthy again.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lea Marquez Peterson

Lea Marquez Peterson
President/CEO
Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce