PIMA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**Rex Scott**, District 1

# MEMORANDUM

To: Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board
Pima County Board of Supervisors

Date: 07/07/2026

Re: Addendum Item for July 14, 2026 Meeting

From: Rex Scott
District 1 Supervisor
Pima County Board of Supervisors

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Please place the following item on the addendum agenda for the Board of Supervisors meeting on July 14, 2026.

Debt & Financial Transparency Advisory Commission

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## Debt & Financial Transparency Advisory Commission

In 1980 voters approved an amendment to the Arizona Constitution, which established limits on how much local revenues counties can spend in a given fiscal year. In 2026, Pima County voters will be asked to provide a permanent base adjustment for Pima County. Without an adjustment to the Base Expenditure Limit, the County will lose authority to spend a portion of the local and state revenues it currently collects to provide County services.

While raising the County's expenditure limit does NOT increase any existing tax nor does it authorize the levy of any new tax, it is critical that Pima County residents are assured of accountability and transparency in the oversight of County expenditures.

The Debt & Financial Transparency Advisory Commission is proposed to promote responsible fiscal stewardship by recommending to the Board of Supervisors opportunities to enhance financial transparency and improve understanding of financial decisions, long-term financial sustainability and prudent debt management.

The Debt & Financial Transparency Advisory Commission shall:

- Monitor debt levels, repayment schedules, and compliance with applicable financial policies;
- Promote clear, accessible public reporting of financial information;
- Encourage best practices in fiscal transparency, accountability, and long-term financial planning; and
- Recommend improvements to financial reporting, and public engagement;

The Debt & Financial Transparency Advisory Commission may:

- Request financial presentations from appropriate staff;
- Review annual audits and management letters; and
- Monitor reserve policies, long-term financial forecasts, and capital improvement financing plans.

Membership of the Debt & Financial Transparency Advisory Commission shall:

- Consist of six members: one (1) appointed by each of the Supervisors; and one (1) appointed by the County Administrator;
- The Director of Finance and Risk Management shall serve as an ex officio member of the Commission;

- Reflect diverse expertise, including public finance, accounting or auditing, banking or municipal finance, economics, business management, community leadership, public administration, and public policy;
- Serve staggered three-year terms. For the initial Commission, members shall draw to determine which two (2) members shall serve a one-year term, which two (2) members shall serve a two-year term, and which two (2) members shall serve a three-year term. All subsequent appointments shall be for a period of three years;
- Be eligible to be reappointed and serve a maximum of two terms or a total of six years; and
- Provide for vacancies to be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Meetings of the Debt & Financial Transparency Advisory Commission shall:

- Be presided over by a Chair and Vice-Chair in the absence of the Chair who are elected annually;
- Occur at least semi—annually;
- Comply with Open Meeting Law requirements; and
- Be conducted in accordance with agendas and supporting materials that are made available to the public and summarized in publicly available minutes.

The Debt & Financial Transparency Advisory Commission serves solely in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors and does not:

- Approve budgets;
- Authorize expenditures;
- Approve or authorize debt issuance;
- Allocate the use of financial resources
- Negotiate or execute debt instruments; or
- Direct staff



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