

Dalton Danz

From: Brenda Marts [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2026 3:57 PM
To: District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; COB_mail
Subject: Affordable Housing

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Dear County Supervisors,

On this week's agenda there is another proposed \$1,000,000 allocation toward affordable housing initiatives. By my understanding, taxpayers have already invested approximately \$21 million into affordable housing construction and rehabilitation projects, with long-term plans reportedly approaching \$250 million in total spending.

That represents a substantial transfer of resources funded largely through property taxes paid by homeowners and property owners. Because of the scale of this investment, I would appreciate seeing clear evidence that these programs are producing measurable, long-term improvements for residents and neighborhoods.

Can the County provide examples of proven models where large-scale affordable housing construction significantly improved economic stability, housing affordability, or quality of life in a comparable community? I have searched for a clear "proof of concept" and have not found convincing evidence that increased government-funded housing construction alone solves the underlying problem.

From what I can see, the issue in Pima County does not appear to be a total lack of housing inventory. Current occupancy rates are reportedly around 89%, and there are thousands of homes listed for sale at any given time. The larger issue seems to be that many residents simply do not earn enough income to afford available housing.

The County already spends millions on housing programs, grants, legal assistance, and administrative departments intended to keep people housed. However, much of this funding appears tied up in payroll, administration, and bureaucracy rather than direct assistance to tenants or working families. A more customer-focused approach — one centered on helping residents directly rather than expanding administrative structures — may produce faster, more measurable results.

I would also ask how continued property tax increases tied to these projects improve the lives of Pima County residents overall. Rising taxes increase operating costs for landlords and property owners, which ultimately contribute to higher rents and reduced profitability for small housing providers. Over time, this may discourage private investment in rental housing and reduce available inventory.

Before moving further toward hundreds of millions in additional spending, I believe taxpayers deserve transparent data showing:

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- measurable outcomes from prior affordable housing investments,
- reductions in homelessness or housing insecurity directly tied to these projects,
- long-term financial sustainability, and
- evidence that these policies improve affordability without creating additional burdens on taxpayers and housing providers.

I respectfully ask the Board to provide clear metrics and evidence demonstrating that this spending is achieving its intended goals.

Sincerely,

Brenda Marts