

ARIZONA TAXPAYER ACTION COMMITTEE
2011 City Candidate Survey & Pledge

Candidate Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Phones: _____

Campaign Committee Name: _____

Committee Address: _____

Committee Website: _____

E-Mail: _____

City: _____ **Mayor:** [] **Council:** [] **District/Ward:** []

Party Affiliation: [] **Democrat** [] **Republican** [] **Other** _____

Candidate Status: **Incumbent** [] **Challenger** [] **Previous Candidate** []

Background: Annual economic growth in Arizona, as measured by state personal income, has averaged a little over seven percent during the past two decades. State population growth, plus inflation, has averaged about five percent during the past two decades. Given the collapse of Arizona's real estate market, those growth rate averages are likely to be lower during the next decades.

1. Can you think of any reason why you would ever vote for an increase in the total annual city budget (general fund and capital combined) of more than five or six percent? If so, why do you believe that the city government budget should be allowed to increase faster than that of the private economy which ultimately supports it?

2. Given the typical rates of economic growth for the private economy in Arizona, can you think of any reason why you would ever vote to increase your city's total property tax levy by more than five or six percent in one year?

3. Given the weakness of the current economic recovery, can you think of any reasons why you might want to increase your city's *total budget* (general fund, enterprise fund, and capital fund) by more than two or three percent next year?

4. Given the weakness of the current economic recovery, and the high number of home foreclosures, can you think of any reasons why you might want to increase your city's total *property tax levy* (including dollars from new growth) by more than two or three percent next year?

5. For the provision of city services, would you be willing to consider any of the following options? (Please initial which ones):

_____ Conducting an open and competitive bidding process to allow private companies to compete with city departments to win contracts to provide city services? (And would you make city departments include the present value of all worker benefits--including overtime, health, and retirement--in their bids?)

_____ Granting long-term concessions for maintenance, improvement, and operation of services such as parks? (Concessions would be granted to private companies that provide capital investments as part of open and competitively bid service contracts.)

_____ Deeding city properties (including recreational facilities and parks) to neighborhood associations, to decentralize the ownership and management of those properties?

6. During the last Arizona Legislative Session, the State Legislature passed the Municipal Managed Competition Reform bill (SB 1322) which would have required Arizona cities with populations of 500,000 or more to open up city services to competition from the private sector. (The Governor ultimately vetoed the bill.) During the legislative process, City of Phoenix-paid lobbyist opposed and fought against this bill. If you were a member of the Phoenix or Tucson City Council at the time the legislation was under consideration, did you support or oppose the bill? If you are a challenger in the current election, would you support or oppose this legislation if introduced again?

7. Do you support the creation of new secondary property tax jurisdictions?

8. Do support the provision of tax subsidies, credits or exemptions for politically selected private businesses or industries?

9. Would you endorse or support a legislative effort to schedule and coordinate all city elections to coincide with an even-year election cycle?

10. Are you a member of any AFSCME-affiliated municipal unions? If so, which one(s)? Have you received any union endorsements?

ARIZONA TAXPAYERS ACTION COMMITTEE PLEDGE

Tax Hikes: I pledge to vote against any increases in tax rates, including property taxes, sales taxes, food taxes, utility hikes and impact fees. (initials)_____

Food Tax Repeal: I pledge to repeal the 2% tax on food that was passed by the Phoenix City Council on February 2, 2010. Although that tax is set to expire after five years, I would vote to repeal it immediately. (initials)_____

Spending Limits: To continue having strong economic growth, we cannot allow government to grow faster than the private economy. I support a strict city spending limit based on population plus inflation (a conservative standard for government growth (initials)_____

Responsible Budgets: I only support overall budget increases (including capital budgets) that are kept below the projected annual increase in state personal income, as published by the Economic Estimates Commission. (initials)_____

Regulatory Burdens: Burdensome regulations stifle competition and increase the cost of goods and services. I oppose the creation of any new regulatory boards. I support the reductions of fees, a moratorium on increases in continuing education requirements, and the reduction/elimination of other regulatory burdens imposed by regulatory boards. Where practicable, I support the sun setting of regulatory boards. (initials)_____

Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying: I support rules and legislation that will limit and/or prohibit the use of taxpayer money lobbying. (initials)_____

Transparency In Government: I support measures that will bring transparency to all levels of city government by January 1, 2012. Citizens should be able to readily access information online and view the amounts and specific vendors for all disbursements, except in legitimate cases involving city security and legal privacy. (initials)_____

Signature:_____ Date:_____

Once completed, either scan or fax survey to:

Arizona Taxpayers Action Committee
Email: info@arizonataxpayeraction.com
Phone: (602) 759-0829
Fax: (419) 828-5842