

## Argument AGAINST Proposition 409

Yes, we know that our streets have potholes and need repair. However, do we want to pony up even more of our money to do it? Maintenance has always been a roadway need and the City has simply failed to reserve funds for that. However, very high salaries for many city employees, and overpriced no-bid construction and consulting contracts have wasted our money. For example, the City authorized a \$9.6 million no-bid contract to build the Cushing street bridge. But the federal government required open bidding since some federal money was involved. The winning bid was \$6.5 million. This was a savings of over \$3 million for the taxpayers on just this one transaction alone.

How can we trust the City with \$100 million of our money when they squandered over \$200 million dollars of our Rio Nuevo money? the Crowe Horwath audit of Rio Nuevo revealed that the Executive Director and the Treasurer of Rio Nuevo were both high- ranking City officials.

The current outstanding general obligation debt of the City is \$222,360,610.

do we really want to provide \$100 million more of our money and incur additional debt to see if the City will do the right thing this time? A variation of that adage might be appropriate in this case - Waste our money once, shame on you: waste it twice, shame on us.

Because of negligence and repeated failures to address serious deterioration for years and to properly allocate appropriate funds to maintain city streets, very basic repairs and maintenance that should have been budgeted routinely have been ignored.

To use bond money would constitute more debt and interest payments, and cause undue, unnecessary and excessive additional burdens for Tucson taxpayers.

PLEASE VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 409!

Pima Association of Taxpayers

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