

Ward 6 Staff



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Council Member



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Ward 6 Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

A Message From Steve

Over the course of the past several months, I have been calling on the council to adopt budget cuts in an effort to demonstrate to the taxpayers that we have taken all reasonable steps towards balancing the budget before asking them to adopt a sales tax increase as a final step towards that end. Today I addressed the Citizen's Core Tax Committee and distributed the attached memo concerning that issue. It is my hope that the rest of the council will join me in making these, and other cuts that they may propose, in an effort to develop the trust that we are managing taxpayer funds prudently. I believe that will be necessary if the proposed core tax is to be approved at the ballot box this November.

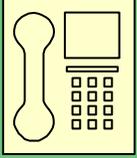
Plan C: Act Now and Plan for the Future

The City of Tucson faces the worst economic and budget conditions since the Great Depression. Four crucial truths exist:

1. The current FY11 budget is balanced using over \$20 million of "potential" revenue. This includes the sale of property and sale/lease-back of property. Both of these contingencies have yet to be realized and are at best risky and at worst non-existent. Therefore the FY11 budget should be considered to be over \$20 million in deficit.
2. Due to reduced revenue, the FY12 budget is projected to be more than \$50 million in deficit.
3. The taxpayers will be asked to fund a ½-cent sales tax increase to balance the budget, but the increase does not include a Maintenance of Effort provision to preserve current budgetary levels for core services.
4. The citizens of Tucson have expressed a "lack of trust" for local government to spend tax dollars in a fiscally prudent manner.

In order to re-establish the trust of the citizens of Tucson, I suggest the following actions to prove to voters that the City of Tucson:

1. fully understands the dire nature of the budget situation and is prepared to act,
2. is willing to take immediate action to solve the crisis,



Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police
Department

911 or 791-4444
nonemergency

Mayor & Council
Comment Line

791-4700

Neighborhood
Resources

791-4605

Park Wise

791-5071

Water Issues

791-3242

Pima County Animal
Control

243-5900

Street Maintenance
791-3154

Development
Services

791-4505

Southwest Gas
889-1888

Gas Emergency/
Gas Leaks

889-1888

West Nile Virus
Hotline

243-7999

Environment
Service

791-3171

Graffiti Removal
792-2489

Continued: A Message From Steve

3. will make additional cuts prior to the sales tax vote, and
4. will dedicate the additional sales tax revenue to core services, commit to a Maintenance of Effort level for each core service department, and establish a sunset for the new tax that is based on economic metrics, not a simple time frame unrelated to the state of the economy.

Budget Deficit Mitigation Measures for Immediate Adoption

1. 2% salary cut across the board to all city workers earning over \$96,000 per year.
2. Eliminate employee cars and/or car allowance and gas allowance for the 31 individuals included under “executive vehicle allowance” list. These include department directors, deputy directors, city manager, Mayor and Council, and others.
3. A 3% reduction in all departmental General Fund budgets. All department heads will present to Mayor and Council a detailed description of their suggested budget cuts for approval to ensure that non-essential area reductions are prioritized.
4. Reduce the Sun Tran Maintenance of Effort by \$5 million from the FY11 General Fund subsidy (\$32 million) and apply it to deficit mitigation.
5. Institute Sun Tran fare increases: 25% on all fares, 50% on day passes, and 100% on express fares:
 - If the sales tax vote fails, proceeds go back into transit until the \$5 million subsidy cut is recouped. Once that has been recouped, further proceeds (the “delta” from the fare increases) go to the General Fund.
 - If sales tax passes, proceeds from fare increases go to the General Fund.
6. Increased Parks and Recreation cost recovery from the current 14% level to 20%.
7. Merge City Channel 12 with Arizona Public Media (AZPM), and move the Channel 12 staff and equipment out of the Pioneer Building and into AZPM’s facility.

Total immediate savings: approximately \$15 million per year.

Budget Deficit Mitigation Measures To Be Considered And Presented For Approval In 30 Days

1. Eliminate Access Tucson’s General Fund subsidy and charge Access Tucson 10% of market rate for rent of the City-owned building.

2. Close and sell Silverbell Golf Course.
 - Proceeds from sale go to immediate deficit reduction.
 - Zoning be determined, with the goal of enabling a variety of uses, consistent with the character of the surrounding area.
3. Cut Neighborhood Association newsletters to 1 time per year and provide education about alternative means of neighborhood communication.
4. Impose a “lift charge” on Tucson Water fees that go for supplying water outside of city limits. Use the fee increase to reduce water rates for in-City residents, rolling back last spring's increased rate.
5. Eliminate the General Fund subsidy to the Tucson Convention Center.
6. Evaluate and consider relevant suggestions from the Core Tax Committee and other community organizations.

To Ensure Trust From The Taxpayers of Tucson, It Is Imperative That The City Of Tucson Commit To The Following Mandates If The Sales Tax Is Passed:

1. Maintenance of Effort – General Fund budgets for Police, Fire, Transportation and Parks & Recreation will not be reduced below the levels which result after the above cuts have been adopted.
2. Dedicated funding source – All proceeds from the ½-cent sales tax to be distributed to Police, Fire, Transportation and Parks & Recreation General Fund budgets as per budget discussions each fiscal year—not formula-based.
3. Sunset provision – Sales tax to sunset at the end of the fiscal year in which State - shared sales tax revenues reach the level received in FY11, plus \$20 million.
4. Under no circumstance will sales tax money be used to replace, augment or increase budgets in non-core areas.
5. Advise Rio Nuevo District Board that due to the uncertain potential impact on the General Fund, the City will not entertain consideration of, or participate in funding, any further studies related to the Garfield Traub Hotel proposal until the sales tax has sunsetted.
6. Commit to consideration of a sales tax ballot measure of less than ½-cent when that issue is revisited – based upon the level of budget cuts/cost recovery measures adopted from this list, and other suggestions brought forth from others.

The City of Tucson, like most families in our community, must face reality and act immediately to effect change. Ask yourself, if you were faced with an immediate and future reduction in income, would you:

1. avoid the issue and HOPE for a salary increase (½-cent sales tax in our case)?
2. or, make changes immediately to mitigate the effect of the deficit? I believe the City needs to immediately make changes and prove to the citizens that we can and will be fiscally responsible.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/ward6>

Day of Climate Action, October 10, 2010

The Teaching & Helping Program of Empowering Local Communities, Inc. is organizing a project to reduce the energy use of as many Tucson homes as possible on the Day of Climate Action, October 10, 2010 (10-10-10). Program leaders are looking for Tucson homeowners who want to participate in doing energy conservation projects on their homes on that day. They are also looking for two qualifying families (low-income homeowners) for September, where they will be training some of their experienced volunteers to be team leaders for the 10-10-10 project.

Teaching & Helping will be fielding teams of mentors and volunteers on October 10 to weatherize and insulate as many homes as possible. They expect to be able to simultaneously do 6-10 homes, train 15-30 volunteers, and reduce annual energy use at least \$150 and CO2 production by at least 1500 pounds (probably more). The program will include some combination of weatherization, insulation, and window replacement, depending on the houses' needs.

If you are interested in finding out more -- either to include your home in the project, or to participate as a volunteer and learn yourself and help others -- please contact Tres English at 795-3413 or tres@sustainabletucson.com.

Email us at: ward6@tucsonaz.gov

Events Within Ward 6

First Thursday Art Walk

Free event featuring local artists, live music and wine tasting at the Main Gate Square 800 E. University Blvd. Thursday, September 2nd, 5pm-8pm

League of Mexican American Women 43rd Annual Fiesta en Xochimilco

When: Saturday, September 4th,
6:00 pm - Midnight
Location: Tucson Convention Center's
Grand Ballroom
Proceeds to provide student scholar-
ships. \$35 at the door

Dine at Claim Jumper and support the Zoo!

On Thursday, September 9, 2010 from
5:00-10:00pm, Claim Jumper will donate
15% of your pre-tax food and beverage pur-
chase to the Reid Park Zoological Soci-
ety. **IMPORTANT:** you must print and pre-
sent the flyer at www.tucsonzoo.org
at the time of your order.

Save the Date!



Date: Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Ward 6 Council Office, 3202 E.
1st Street

Council Member Steve Kozachik will host a
Town Hall on the upcoming November
Ballot Initiatives: Prop 400 Core Services
Tax and Prop 401 Charter Change.
We look forward to seeing you there.

Ward 6 City Council Closure Due to Furlough Day Friday, September 3,

Ward 6 Council Office will be closed due to
the nine unpaid furlough days prior to June
30, 2011. The next closure will be Friday,
September 3, 2010. We will be closed for
business on the following days:

Friday, September 3, 2010
Monday, October 11, 2010
Friday, November 26, 2010
Friday, February 18, 2011
Friday, March 18, 2011
Friday, April 15, 2011
Friday, May 27, 2011

The Ward 6 Council Office will be closed Monday, September 6th in Observance of Labor Day

The first Labor Day in the United States was celebrated on September 5, 1882 in New York City. In the aftermath of the deaths of a number of workers at the hands of the U.S. military and U.S. Marshals during the 1894 Pullman Strike, President Grover Cleveland put reconciliation with Labor as a top political priority. Fearing further conflict, legislation making Labor Day a national holiday was rushed through Congress unanimously and signed into law a mere six days after the end of the strike. Cleveland was also concerned that aligning an American labor holiday with existing international May Day celebrations would stir up negative emotions linked to the Haymarket Affair. By the 20th century, all 50 U.S. states had made Labor Day a state holiday.

Come visit us online at www.tucsonaz.gov/ward6