

ARIZONA TAX RESEARCH ASSOCIATION



NEWS RELEASE

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ATRA Releases Analysis of Statewide Public Debt Debt Climbs \$3 Billion (11%) to \$32.1 Billion

The Department of Revenue's Debt Oversight Commission annually releases a full accounting of the debt held by all of Arizona's state and local governments. The Arizona Tax Research Association (ATRA) analyzed this report to determine which political subdivisions hold the most total debt, which have the most debt per individual served, and which political subdivisions were most responsible for increases in debt over the last year.

The attached analysis shows that in fiscal year 2007, total statewide debt increased \$3 billion (11%) to a total of \$32 billion. This debt equates to \$5,204 per Arizona resident. Of the six political subdivisions that hold the bulk of the statewide debt, cities and towns have the largest portion (\$13 billion). Phoenix, Mesa, and Tucson each have more debt than any other city, although Queen Creek, Cave Creek, and Tolleson have more debt per capita. Community college districts saw the greatest percent increase in debt over the last year. Driven by new debt contracted by the Maricopa Community College District (\$185 million), the total debt held by all college districts increased 37% from fiscal year 2006.

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