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ARIZONA TAX RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

ATRA OPPOSES SB1374

Unconstitutional End Run of College Expenditure Limits

In an attempt to avoid going to their voters for relief from their constitutional expenditure limits, the Arizona Community Colleges are seeking that relief from the Arizona Legislature. As the Arizona Legislative Council notes in the [attached memo](#), the Constitution made clear that any significant change in spending capacity would have to be approved by the voters – the ones that approved their creation. Legislative Council notes **“An interpretation that the legislature has broad authority to overcome the limitation on community college expenditures is contrary to the reasons for adopting the limitation.”**

The change to counting community college FTSE prescribed in SB1374 will cause the expenditure limit of each college to skyrocket 25% - making a complete mockery of these voter approved limits. College lobbyists have argued that these limits are old and archaic. We would hope everyone would agree there is no shelf life for the Constitution. As Pima Community College did in 2000, the only legal relief for the colleges to exceed their expenditure limits is with the voters.

ATRA Strongly Encourages Lawmakers to Vote NO on SB1374!