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ARIZONA TAX RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

ARGUMENT IN “FAVOR” OF PROPOSITION 104

As citizens of Arizona, there are few responsibilities more important than our authority to create and make changes to Arizona's laws through the initiative process. Changes to laws governing public finance & taxation can have tremendous and long-term impacts on citizens and taxpayers and should not be taken lightly.

When citizens are asked to consider, debate, and vote on a proposed constitutional or statutory change, adequate time should be provided to ensure that voters have an opportunity to understand and scrutinize ballot measures and their impact. This becomes especially important in light of the obstacles and restrictions Proposition 105 enacted in 1998, making it very difficult to change voter-approved measures — even to fix flawed or unworkable provisions or to remedy unintended consequences.

Current law provides a minimum of only four months for initiatives to be filed before the election takes place to decide the question. Proposition 104 will extend that filing timeframe to no less than seven months, giving Arizona's citizens an additional three months to weigh the proposal before casting their votes.

In order not to decrease the amount of time available for citizens to circulate and qualify petitions for the ballot, Proposition 104 makes a conforming change to extend that time 3 months.

Proposition 104 is a reasonable measure that will increase the allowed time for the due diligence all voters should exercise on matters that can have such a significant impact on government institutions and the demands those institutions make on taxpayers.

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 104!

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