



The taxpayer's watchdog for over 80 years

ARIZONA TAX RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

ATRA SUPPORTS HB2112

Truth in Taxation (TNT) Requirements

Background

State and local governments go through several steps in crafting their annual budgets and a big part of the discussion involves whether or not to increase property taxes. If the decision is made to increase taxes, the Truth in Taxation (TNT) laws require the taxing entity to provide notice of the tax increase to taxpayers. Those requirements currently consist of publishing the TNT notice twice in a newspaper of general circulation and issuing a press release.

TNT is more transparent and effective at the state level but less so at the local level. Although government is required to issue a press release, there's no certainty that the information included in the press release will ever reach the public. Additionally, in order for a taxpayer to see publication of the TNT notice, they would have to subscribe to the specific newspaper chosen to publish the notice by the taxing entity. And although the discussion of increasing property taxes has a major impact on the budget, there is no requirement that the TNT notice be included in the budget.

Basis for ATRA's Support

HB2112 raises awareness when taxing entities intend to increase property taxes by requiring the TNT notice to be included in the taxing entity's proposed and adopted budgets. Furthermore, the press release must include the name of the newspaper in which the TNT notice will be published, the dates of publication, and must be accessible to the public from the taxing entity's website.

ATRA ASKS LAWMAKERS TO VOTE YES ON HB2112!