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ARIZONA TAX RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

ATRA SUPPORTS HB2378 *City Parcel Tax Prohibition*

Background

This legislation arose from an issue that developed in the Town of Paradise Valley three years ago. The Town of Paradise Valley proposed legislation that would have allowed all cities and towns to levy a new parcel tax on property for the payment of fire services that would have been collected by the County Treasurer. Thankfully that legislation did not pass; however, the city proceeded with imposing the parcel tax anyway. That tax went into effect in January, 2013.

Basis for ATRA's Support

The passage of HB2378 would prohibit the spread of a bad precedent of allowing cities to levy a property tax outside of the existing property tax structure that provides a multitude of protections for taxpayers and that would ensure that taxes be levied consistently and equitably across the state.

HB2378 prohibits a municipality from levying or assessing a tax or fee against property for any public service outside of its existing authority to levy property taxes under Arizona's current property tax laws, which are embedded in the Constitution and throughout state statute. The legislation does grandfather a municipality that adopted an ordinance to require property owners to obtain fire prevention and control services before December 31, 2013.

HB2378 passed the House 55-0.

ATRA ASKS LAWMAKERS TO SUPPORT HB2378!