



The taxpayer's watchdog for 80 years

ARIZONA TAX RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

ATRA SUPPORTS HB2391

Modernize the Publication of Property Tax Rates & Levies

Background: One of the fundamental tenets of transparent government is presenting important data in ways citizens can understand. At present, Arizona's property tax system is an "insider's game" meaning only those who know how to access and digest property tax rates can turn the data into useful information.

The publishing of annual property tax data looks different in each county. Each county uses a different template and include different levels of detail. Turning the data into useful information is left to experts.

Each year after property tax rates are adopted in August, the Arizona Department of Revenue (ADOR) produces the Average Statewide Property Tax report. Combing through the hundreds of jurisdictions is laborious work made more difficult by the lack of standardization, requiring manual data-entry from scanned PDFs. The same is done by any other entity doing tax analysis, such as CPAs.

Solution: HB2391 simply requires all counties publish their rates and levies on a standard worksheet (such as Excel or Google Sheets) developed by ADOR.

Rationale: Key government data should be produced in a manner that is useful to citizens. By producing this critical taxpayer data on a worksheet, the information becomes democratized, letting interested citizens crunch their own data.

By publishing the information on worksheets, other governmental agencies who rely on the information will also benefit. It will also improve historical record keeping.

By making this information "smart," errors will be easier to spot and more quickly resolved.

HB2391 is a simple modernization bill that is good for government and taxpayers alike.

ATRA encourages lawmakers to vote Yes on HB2391.