

Coconino County Board of Supervisors
District 1 Supervisor Art Babbott
District 2 Supervisor Liz Archuleta
District 3 Supervisor Matt Ryan
District 4 Supervisor Mandy Metzger
District 5 Supervisor Lena Fowler



Contact:
Nathan Gonzalez
Public Information Officer
Phone: 928-679-7172
Cell: 928-699-1726
ngonzalez@coconino.az.gov

Follow us on:  

For Immediate Release

November 4, 2014

County Voters Approve Proposition 403

3/10-cent sales tax to raise \$7 million per year for road maintenance

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Coconino County voters approved Proposition 403, a 3/10-cent sales tax, which will help fund road maintenance projects throughout the County.

The tax, which was approved Tuesday, will provide approximately \$7 million per year for the County to invest in roadway maintenance, infrastructure and snowplowing. The sales tax passed by voters expires in 20 years.

“Today our county residents made a decision: they value our roads and want to protect them for the future,” said Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Mandy Metzger. “We offer our sincerest thanks to those who exercised their responsibility to vote and consider Proposition 403.”

In June, the Board placed a 3/10-cent sales tax increase before county voters to help close a looming \$100-million budget shortfall. The move followed more than two years of public meetings, input from stakeholders and coordination with the City of Flagstaff.

Leading up to the election, the County conducted about 125 presentations on the funding shortfall to area organizations and groups, in addition to holding multiple community open houses and providing information at various events.

“These badly needed funds will help ensure the County can better maintain our largest single resource- our roads,” Metzger said. “These investments in our road infrastructure will ensure our residents, school busses and tourists can travel safely throughout our county.”

The funding shortfall is the result of multiple factors, including the State of Arizona sweeping Arizona Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) payments. HURF is funded primarily through a gas tax that has remained flat for more than 20 years and isn’t adjusted for inflation. The County has also been impacted by a reduction in federal funding it receives from the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (SRS) and Payment in Lieu of Taxes for counties, both of which have not been reauthorized.

“While the sales tax approved by voters will not solve all of our transportation funding needs, it is a great start in showing our federal and state leaders that our residents are willing to do their part,” Metzger said. “The Board of Supervisors and county staff will continue to work with our federal and state lawmakers to restore funding to allow us to further invest in our road systems.”

The County maintains 930 miles of roadway, including 460 miles of county-owned roads in addition to 258 miles of U.S. Forest Service roads and 212 miles of U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs roadways on the Navajo Nation. USFS and BIA roads are maintained through partnership agreements between the County and both agencies.

###