

KNOW THE FACTS ✓

Temporary Sales Tax Increase:

Public Education

As the November general election approaches, the city of Glendale wants to inform voters about the importance of the temporary sales tax that the City Council approved in June 2012. Revenue generated from this tax is for the main budget, the General Fund, providing funding for services such as public safety, code compliance, libraries and parks and recreation. The last time Glendale increased the general sales tax rate across most categories was 20 years ago. Since that time, Glendale's population has grown by more than 41 percent, and to serve the needs of the current and new residents, the city has added a third library, 32 parks, a recreation and aquatics center, five fire stations and a police precinct.

What does "temporary" mean?

The new rate is only effective for five years – August 1, 2012 to August 1, 2017.

How much is the temporary increase?

The old rate was 2.2% and the new temporary rate is 2.9% – an increase of .7% for every one dollar. Spend \$50.00 and you'll pay 35 cents more in sales tax.

What's at stake?

If the temporary sales tax were to go away, here is a list of some of the proposed reductions to the city as of 9/24/12:

- 250 employee positions
- Police officers, CAT Team, jail staff
- Firefighters and fire inspectors
- Closing of Glendale libraries
- Eliminating all downtown city festivals
- Closure of Rose Lane Aquatics Facility
- Shutting down the city's TV station/online videos to no longer broadcast public meetings

Why did the city temporarily increase the city sales tax?

Due to the prolonged economic recession, less revenue has come into the city through sales tax and state shared revenue. In addition, Glendale has obligations for current programs and services, like the city-owned Jobing.com Arena, a facility Glendale is required to operate and maintain.

For the current fiscal year, Glendale had an estimated \$32 million deficit. The City Council approved \$10 million in cuts and determined further cuts would seriously impact priority services like public safety. The temporary sales tax increase is expected to generate \$22 million to help balance the budget, which is required by law.

Is Glendale the only city to increase its sales tax rate?

No – According to the Model City Tax Code, Glendale is actually one of the last in Maricopa County to do this. More than 30 Arizona cities, as well as the state of Arizona, raised sales tax rates to address budget problems the past few years.

What services does the General Fund provide?

The General Fund is the main funding source for services and amenities such as: police and fire protection, libraries and park facilities, court services, code compliance, planning and economic development. Almost every city department is funded from the General Fund for items ranging from electric and water bills on city buildings and parks to books and the operation of the three libraries. This also includes paint to cover up graffiti and the maintenance of facilities and parks, such as mowing the lawn and irrigation, as well as wages for city employees to provide these services.

How much of the General Fund supports Public Safety?

Public Safety accounts for about 63% of the city's General Fund.

What has Glendale done to reduce expenses to the General Fund?

Since 2009 staff has worked to reduce expenses and not affect services and quality-of-life amenities for residents, including:

- 25% cuts to departmental budgets (\$40.2 million)
- 22% decrease to city workforce (307 positions)
- Mandatory employee furloughs saving the city approximately \$5.5 million

Where can I find more financial information?

Go to www.glendaleaz.com and visit the "budget" or "finance" pages as well as "Follow Your Money."



A Message from Mayor Elaine Scruggs

Glendale Police Department Awarded Re-Accreditation by the Commission for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

Recently Interim Chief Debby Black announced that our Glendale Police Department was awarded re-accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. otherwise known as CALEA.

In order to receive CALEA accreditation, Glendale PD underwent a rigorous examination process including a 3-day on-site assessment of the department's policies, procedures, management, operations, and support services to ensure compliance with over 400 professional excellence standards. These standards govern all aspects of department operations including training, recruitment, promotion, benefits, discipline, patrol, investigations, crime prevention, traffic, prisoner transport, holding facility, communications, records, and fiscal management.

Our Glendale Police Department first achieved accreditation in 2000 and is one of a small number of agencies nationwide to achieve this accomplishment. At this time, only 500 of the 33,000 municipal police departments are accredited, putting Glendale in a very elite group of local law enforcement agencies.

Glendale residents can be confident that they are receiving the highest possible quality of service from the dedicated men and women of our Police Department as they fulfill their mission to "protect the lives and property of the people" they serve. Glendale has always committed to providing the highest quality service to our residents, and the recent CALEA re-accreditation of our Police Department is just one more example of putting that commitment to excellence into practice.



Award-Winning Glendale Glitters Illuminates the Valley Nov. 23-24

You won't believe your eyes as you take in the stunning display of 1.5 million twinkling lights illuminating sixteen blocks of Historic Downtown Glendale. The city's favorite holiday tradition, Glendale Glitters, has received numerous festival awards and attracts people from all over the country. Don't miss this year's opening weekend on November 23 and 24, from 5- 10 p.m. Admission is free. The exciting stage show begins at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and counts down to the flipping of the switch to illuminate the entire downtown area. Visitors of all ages will delight in the outstanding holiday entertainment, food, hand-crafted holiday gifts, a children's winter wonderland, petting zoo, horse-drawn carriage rides, shopping and, of course, visits with Jolly Ol' St. Nick.

Event attendees will have the option of paying for preferred parking in the two downtown garages, located at City Hall and the Bank of America building, at 58th Avenue and Glenn Drive. The preferred parking fee is \$10. Also, free shuttles run all evening long, between 4:30-10:30 p.m. from Glendale Community College, at 59th and Olive avenues.

The glittering magic of Glendale's holiday display remains lit nightly through January 12, from 5- 10 p.m. INFO: 623-930-2299 or glendaleaz.com/events

VOTE!



The General Election will be held Tuesday, November 6. The office of mayor, as well as council member seats in the Sahuaro, Cactus and Yucca districts, will be determined in Glendale. For early ballots, requests must be made by October 26. For more information on how to receive an early ballot, where to register to vote or polling locations, contact the Glendale City Clerk's Office at 623-930-2252 (press option #1) or visit glendaleaz.com/clerk.



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Published by the City of
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www.glendaleaz.com
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For a complete listing of city events, activities and meetings, visit glendaleaz.com/calendar.

Please note that due to printing deadlines, we encourage you to check our online version of this newsletter at glendaleaz.com/connection for the most up-to-date event information and details.