

Voice of the Poor ACTION ALERT! Budget and Bills

Sales Tax Increase Agreed to by Legislative Leadership?

As reported in the Arizona Capitol Times (6/10/09), Senate President Bob Burns announced that there has been a tentative agreement with Governor Brewer to include a one per cent sales tax increase in the 2010 budget. Burns cautioned that this is a *last resort* and will require drafting of a bill, finding a sponsor for the bill and placing the measure on the ballot. Revenue generated would be used to help bridge the deficit gap (estimated at \$3 billion by the legislature and \$4 billion by the governor).

Please let your legislators know that you recognize the serious deficit Arizona faces and would support this tax increase in order to avoid further cuts in state programs. Go to www.azleg.gov and click on "Find My Legislators"

Senate Bills Heard in Rapid Succession

The following bills are opposed or supported by Voice of the Poor based on the SVdP Legislative Agenda approved by the Phoenix Diocesan Council. Please e-mail or call your legislators and register the opinion recommended by Voice of the Poor:

Immigration:

Oppose both SB 1162 and SB 1175 which create the crime of felony trespass for persons not legally present in AZ. These bills could make undocumented persons felons making future efforts at legalization very difficult or impossible. (Similar bills were vetoed by Governor Napolitano).

Foreclosures/tenant protection:

Support both HB 2269 and SB 1108 requiring notice to a tenant if a landlord sells a rental property. These bills are designed to protect tenants from losing rent and deposits when property is sold or lost to foreclosure.

Charitable organizations:

Support HB 2091 which requires disclosure of the name of the charity and who will benefit from donations at the collection site.

Support SB 1019 eliminating the baseline year requirement from the AZ charitable tax credit for organizations serving the working poor (such as SVdP).

Healthcare:

Oppose HCR 2014 which places language of the ballot to amend the AZ Constitution restricting the types of healthcare allowed in AZ. (This is similar to Prop. 101 defeated by the voters in November).

