



ARIZONA CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION

Quality Education and Jobs – Proposed Citizen Ballot Initiative Potential Impact on Child Care

Background

- In 2010 Arizona voters approved a ballot initiative for a temporary one cent sales tax increase for education, health care, public safety, and human services. There was no specific designation of how funds would be spent.
- That sales tax increase generates just under \$1 billion annually but expires May 2013. The current State General Fund budget is \$ 8.3 billion.
- Basic needs services have been cut by over \$208 million over the past 3 years including \$81 million in General Fund and TANF cuts to child care subsidy.
- Recent polls indicate a high level of voter support for extending the sales tax for education and other services.

Ballot initiative Process

- In March, a coalition of primarily education groups filed a ballot initiative.
- 172,809 signatures are needed by July 5th to get onto the November 6th ballot. The goal is 225,000 signatures. To date, over 60,000 signatures have been collected.
- ACCA, and numerous other groups, have endorsed the initiative and are assisting with signature collection. ACCA is also supporting voter registration activities.

Quality Education and Jobs – Major Provisions

- Renewing the one cent sales tax, without an increase, is estimated to generate \$1 billion a year and up to \$2 billion by 2025 of permanent dedicated revenue.
- 80% of the funds benefit education, primarily K-12, but will also fund community college and university scholarships and career and technical education.
- The measure will prevent future cuts to education.
- Implements new curriculum, reforms, performance measures, and accountability.
- Creates jobs through transportation projects and protects current highway funding.
- Restores the Children's Health Insurance Program (KidsCare).

Family Stability and Self Sufficiency Fund

- Establishes a new fund for basic needs for families below 200% of the poverty level.
- Expected to generate \$100 million annually.
- Governor would determine programs funded, with priority for matching federal funds.
- Language specifically includes preventing hunger, homelessness, and domestic violence, and **providing child care**, and other community and social services.

Other Reasons to Support the Quality Education and Jobs Ballot Initiative

- The loss of the one cent sales tax will likely result in more cuts to state services.
- There are no plans to restore any of the state child care funding that was cut.
- Greater investments in education and jobs will have a positive impact on Arizona's economy. For more information go to www.qualityeducationandjobs.com

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