

# MEMO

## I. Proposition 407 – City of Tucson Parks Bonds

**Issue:** The City of Tucson is asking voters to consider a \$225 million Parks and Connections Bond to fund capital improvements, and more. The bond package, Proposition 407, would fund improvements that will promote mobility, accessibility, and safety at major parks, neighborhood and community parks, recreation centers, pools, splash pads, and sports fields at 100 of our city's 128 parks. Bond funds also would improve connections with greenways, shared-use paths, pedestrian safety features, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes.

**Background:** The City of Tucson Parks and Recreation Department provides a variety of parks, recreation facilities and program experiences equitably throughout the community. The department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of 128 parks, nineteen recreation centers, twenty-six swimming pools, three tennis centers, the nationally accredited Reid Park Zoo, three urban fishing lakes, nature trails, sports fields, open space and undeveloped properties, special places and hundreds of programs, including large special events that are offered throughout the year.

**Chamber Position:** Support

The Tucson Metro Chamber Board of Directors has continually supported and encouraged governmental expenditures that provide essential services for the betterment and protection of the citizenry.

## II. Proposition 463 – Pima County Road Bonds

**Issue:** Pima County is asking voters on November 6, 2018 to consider authorizing the sale of \$430 million in general obligation bonds to fund the reconstruction, repair and preservation of existing public roads across the region. General obligation bonds are repaid with property taxes. Pima County can afford to sell these bonds without increasing property taxes as previous bond debt is being paid off rapidly. The bonds would be issued with very short repayment periods, so that the debt repayment periods will not exceed the useful life of the road repairs. Revenues from sale of the bonds cannot be used for anything but reconstruction, repair and preservation of existing public roads.

**Background:** Pima County maintains 1,891 miles of paved roads in unincorporated areas, of which about 70 percent are rated in poor or failing condition. The County Department of Transportation's model and draft plan to repair all of the County-maintained paved roads within 10 years, includes regular maintenance.

**Chamber Position:** Support

The Chamber's current Legislative Agenda indicates support for "new and increased revenue sources for infrastructure (roads)."