

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

109TH ARIZONA TOWN HALL

SESSION I - MONDAY MORNING – NOVEMBER 14

SETTING THE STAGE

1. What are the principal needs that the Arizona Government financing systems should address? How well are those needs being met today? How well is the system positioned to meet future needs?
2. How has the state's political and cultural history, changing demographics (including population growth), economic drivers and other factors shaped Arizona's current government financing system? How will these factors shape Arizona's government financing system in the future?
3. What should be the principal attributes of Arizona's state government finance system? Consider the guiding principles referenced in the background report, the amount Arizonans should reasonably expect to pay to support public programs and the proper distribution of tax burdens among businesses of all sizes and individuals.
4. How effective is Arizona's current government financing system? Consider the short and long term needs of Arizonans, the impact of economic cycles (especially downturns), deficits and whether the system incentivizes efficiency and effectiveness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, Cont.

SESSION II - MONDAY AFTERNOON – NOVEMBER 14

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

1. In what ways do Arizona's state and local government financing systems work together? What, if any, changes should be made to allow these systems to work together effectively and efficiently?
2. To what extent does Arizona's government financing system adequately provide for infrastructure needs such as transportation, utilities, telecommunications and other public works? What changes, if any, need to be considered?
3. How effectively does Arizona's government financing system promote or support Arizona's natural resources, including land and water? What changes, if any, should be considered?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, Cont.

SESSION III - TUESDAY MORNING – NOVEMBER 15

EDUCATION, COMMERCE, HEALTH & SECURITY, OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

1. To what extent does Arizona's government financing system provide for the well-being of Arizonans? Specifically, consider:
 - a. Arizona's educational needs.
 - b. Arizona's health care system.
 - c. Arizona's criminal justice system.
 - d. Other programs such as human services.
2. Consider the interplay between Arizona's government finance systems and the economy. What is the impact of the national, state and local economies on Arizona's ability to generate state and local revenue? What is the impact of Arizona's government financing systems (both state and local) on the economy?
3. What are the greatest barriers to improving Arizona's government financing system to meet its future needs? How can these barriers best be overcome? Focus your discussion on implementing the recommendations from the previous sessions. Consider funding levels needed, constitutional and statutory limitations, political factors, the public will and any other limitations.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, Cont.

SESSION IV – TUESDAY AFTERNOON – NOVEMBER 15

SETTING PRIORITIES AND TAKING ACTION

1. Considering the discussions from the previous sessions, what actions should be taken that would have the most beneficial impact on Arizona's future? How should they be prioritized and when can they be implemented?

Consider which actions are realistically achievable, have the greatest return on investment, and are most likely to be accomplished. Also consider how actions and priorities may vary for urban, rural and tribal communities.

2. Who should lead the actions identified in Question 1? If the action requires changes to financing systems, funding or changes to the law, identify how the action will be accomplished.
3. What specific actions should individuals take, including each of us?