



FIRST THINGS FIRST

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

Legislative Update

July 9, 2010

The First Things First Board recently filed a complaint for special action in Maricopa County Superior Court. The action is related to the ballot analysis of House Concurrent Resolution 2001 (Proposition 302). If passed by voters in November, Prop. 302 will eliminate First Things First and sweep all funds generated by the tobacco tax into the state general fund to be used at the discretion of the State Legislature. The ballot analysis will appear in the Voter's Guide mailed to voters in the fall by the Secretary of State. The ballot analysis is required to be an impartial description of the matter before voters. The board believes that there are several key issues precluding the current analysis from being impartial:

1. The ordering of the language, specifically not providing background prior to the description of what the measure will do.
2. Not letting voters know that this tax was voter approved in 2006.
3. Not accurately or fully describing the distribution of revenue between administration and program.

The board believes it is important that voters have a fair, accurate and impartial description of the measure before them. There will be a procedural hearing on Monday, July 12, 2010. Because the ballot and Voter's Guide need to be printed in a timely manner for the November 2nd General Election, it is anticipated that the court proceedings will be finished by August 23rd.

Ballot statements were due to the Secretary of State's Office, Wednesday July 7 at 5:00 p.m. These statements will be printed and distributed to voters through the Voter's Guide. As of Tuesday, July 6th at approximately 5:00 p.m., there were a total of 163 statements turned in, 50 of which were against the repeal of First Things First. The information regarding the ballot statements will be listed on the Secretary of State's web site: <http://www.azsos.gov/election/>