

Mayor's Report on Alternative Expenditure Limitation 7/19/2016

In a few weeks, the voters of Chino Valley will be asked to vote on the extension of the Alternative Expenditure Limitation (also called the Home Rule Option) for the Town of Chino Valley. A "yes" vote on the Home Rule Option will allow the Town to budget the full amount of its revenues for the next four years, whereas a "no" vote will impose a limit set by the state that would only allow the Town to budget approximately 44% of its revenues for at least the next two years.

By way of analogy, this would be equivalent to a family receiving an income of \$2,000 per month and then selecting whether to be able to budget the entire \$2,000 as they wish or being limited to budgeting only \$850 of that income. Needless to say, a 56% reduction in spendable income translates out to a 56% reduction in living expenses.

In a municipality which is just beginning to build its economic base, a 56% reduction in spendable income would be (at the very least) a difficult hurdle to overcome. Delivery of such items as road repair, public safety, and others would be compromised; and the entire community would feel the effects for some time to come.

In the days ahead, the citizens of Chino Valley will have the opportunity to vote on the Home Rule Option. A "yes" vote will allow the citizens and their Town Council to determine how their revenues are spent, and a "no" vote will place the Town under State imposed limitations. I would like to urge our citizens to read the voter information pamphlet carefully and consider the subject well before casting their ballots. The quality of our future depends on it.

Chris Marley, Mayor of Chino Valley