

Maricopa County Voters Overwhelmingly Support Extending Proposition 400

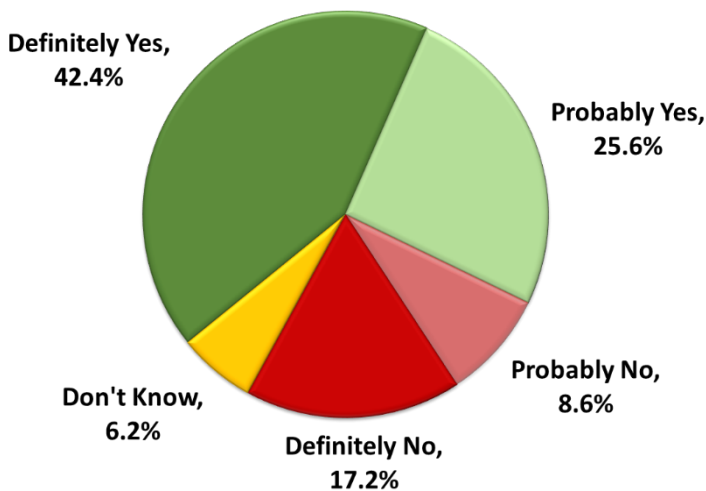
Likely voters concerned about keeping up with growth and do not believe legislature is delivering results

Contact: Paul Bentz, 602-528-3684

PHOENIX (July 28, 2023) – As the Arizona State Legislature returns to the Capitol next week, one of the most pressing unresolved issues they face is the continuation of Maricopa County’s existing half-cent sales tax which funds the Regional Transportation Program. Most recently passed in 2004, Proposition 400 is set to expire at the end of 2025 unless the legislature takes action to allow a continuation to be placed on the ballot.

According to the most recent countywide survey conducted by HighGround Public Affairs, extending Proposition 400 is highly favored by likely voters in Maricopa County. A sizable 68.0% of respondents expressed support for extending Proposition 400 compared to only 25.8% of likely voters opposing it. The live-caller survey demonstrated support among all partisan and regional segments for continued transportation and transit investment in Maricopa County.

Q. “A measure continuing the current transportation sales tax for an additional 20 years to address the regional transportation system by building new freeways, expanding existing freeways with additional access and capacity, constructing streets and intersections, expanding transit by extending the light rail system, sustaining and increasing the frequency of bus service, dial-a-ride, and vanpool services.” Knowing just what you do right now, would you vote yes or no to extend Maricopa County’s half cent sales tax for 20 years?

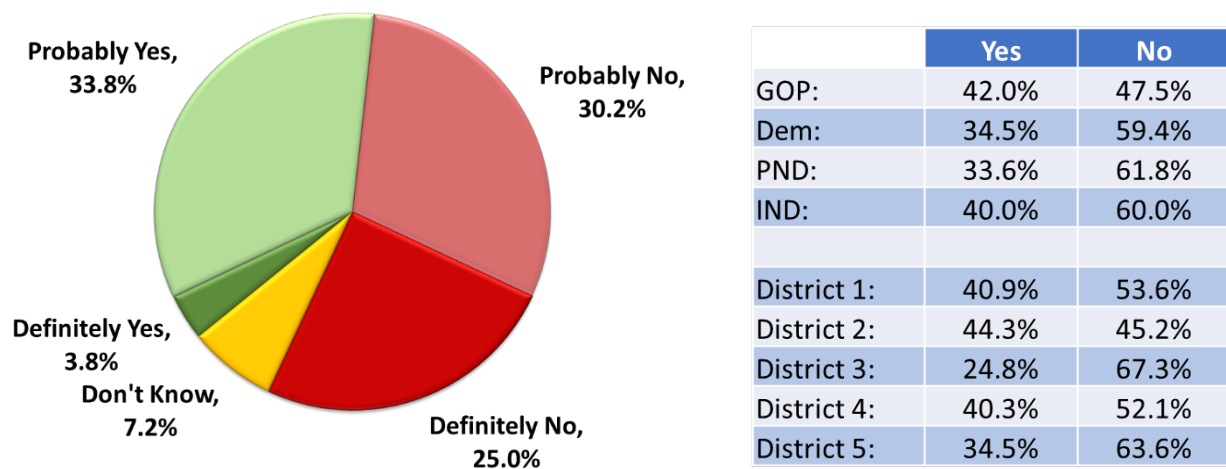


| | Yes | No |
|-------------|-------|-------|
| GOP: | 55.0% | 38.5% |
| Dem: | 82.4% | 11.5% |
| PND: | 72.7% | 21.8% |
| IND: | 56.0% | 36.0% |
| District 1: | 67.3% | 22.5% |
| District 2: | 67.8% | 27.0% |
| District 3: | 59.4% | 31.7% |
| District 4: | 79.8% | 16.8% |
| District 5: | 60.0% | 32.7% |

Paul Bentz, Senior Vice President of Research and Strategy at HighGround Inc., emphasized that a vast majority of Maricopa County's electorate recognizes the crucial importance of extending Proposition 400. He stated, "Not only does it earn support from all partisan and regional segments, it earned significant support among all age demographics as well. No matter what portion of the region a legislator represents, they can rest assured that their voters want an opportunity to vote on this issue."

The survey also revealed that a majority of Maricopa County voters **DO NOT** believe that legislative leaders are focused on the transportation issues that they care most about. In fact, 55.2% of likely voters shared this negative sentiment compared to only 37.6% who said that the legislature was doing their job to deliver results on transportation.

Q. In general, do you believe that our legislative leaders are focused on the transportation issues that you care most about and delivering the results you want, need, and deserve?



"Our region has developed one of the most robust and well-designed transportation systems in the country over the past 40 years. This remarkable progress can be attributed to the unwavering commitment of our residents who have consistently voted to continue to invest in critical highway, street, and transit infrastructure," said Maria Tyne, Chair of Friends of Transit. "This survey confirms that our voters understand the need for continued the investment. This is an opportunity for legislative leaders to show voters that they are able to deliver results and help avoid the ongoing threat of gridlock, pollution, and lost economic opportunity."

Being the fastest growing county in the United States, voters in our region have shown a profound awareness of the specter of growing traffic congestion and the negative impact on the region. More than 87.4% of all respondents agreed with the following statement:

Q. "Arizona is one of the fastest growing states in the country – our population has grown by more than 2 million people in the past 20 years. The State of Arizona estimates that our state's population will grow by 42% by 2050. To avoid future traffic congestion like California, we need to continue to invest in our infrastructure."

Only 10.4% of likely voters disagreed with or felt neutral about the statement. It earned 82.0% agreement from Republican respondents, 88.5% among Democratic voters, 95.5% among unaffiliated respondents, and 88.0% among independent and other segments.

David Schwartz, Executive Director of Friends of Transit concluded, “As this survey and others have shown, the extension of Proposition 400 is an important issue that voters not only care about but are eager to pass. Our community, our economy, and our quality of life have thrived because of our past investments in a well-functioning transportation system. We hope that the legislature and the Governor will act quickly to deliver on what the voters clearly want.”

About the Survey

The N=500 survey was conducted among likely voters 7/22 through 7/26. The poll surveyed likely Arizona 2024 General Election voters in Maricopa County who have a history of electoral participation and was balanced to model the likely turnout of voters across party, age, region, and gender. No weighting has been applied. The sample was provided from the internal voter database maintained by HighGround.

The live interview survey of voters was conducted in English by HighGround Public Affairs to both landline and cell phone users. The statewide survey was sponsored by Friends of Transit on transportation issues facing Maricopa County.

The partisan advantage was set at +13% GOP based on previous General Election trends in Maricopa County. The margin of error is $\pm 4.38\%$. For more information regarding the study, contact Paul Bentz at 602-528-3684.

Survey Demographics

The HighGround team has built a reputation of reliable and accurate polling over the past ten years – our research has been featured in countless national and local publications. HighGround is a four-time winner of "Best Pollster" by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

Age Group:

12.0% 20 to 29
16.0% 30 to 39
18.0% 40 to 49
25.0% 50 to 64
29.0% 65 Plus

Maricopa Supervisor District Number:

22.0% District 1
23.0% District 2
20.2% District 3
23.8% District 4
11.0% District 5

Sex:

48.0% Male
52.0% Female

Party:

40.0% Republican
33.0% Democrat
22.0% Independent
5.0% PND/Other

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** Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding*