

**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA**  
**INFORMATION PAMPHLET/TEXT OF BALLOT**

**AND**

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION PAMPHLET**  
**(See Pages 58 to 62)**

**GENERAL/SPECIAL ELECTION**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018**



For a Spanish or large print version of this pamphlet, please call 480-312-2412, or write to the Scottsdale City Clerk's Office, 3939 North Drinkwater Boulevard, Scottsdale, Arizona 85251.

*Para una versión en Español o en letra grande de este folleto, favor de llamar al 480-312-2488, o escríbale a la Oficina de la Secretaria Municipal, 3939 North Drinkwater Boulevard, Scottsdale, Arizona 85251. Una versión en Español de este folleto esta disponible en línea al (<http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/elections/espanol>) y en las siguientes localizaciones de Scottsdale:*

- *Oficina de la Secretaria Municipal, 3939 North Drinkwater Boulevard, 480-312-2412*
- *Centro de la Vecindad Paiute, 6535 East Osborn Road, 480-312-2529*
- *Centro de la Comunidad Vista del Camino, 7700 East Roosevelt Street, 480-312-2330*
- *Biblioteca Appaloosa, 7377 East Silverstone Drive, 480-312-7323*
- *Biblioteca Arabian, 10215 East McDowell Mountain Ranch Road, 480-312-7323*
- *Biblioteca Civic Center, 3839 North Drinkwater Boulevard, 480-312-7323*
- *Biblioteca Mustang, 10101 North 90th Street, 480-312-7323*
- *Biblioteca Palomino, 12575 East Via Linda, 480-312-7323*

To the Voters of the City of Scottsdale:

This pamphlet provides you with information regarding the City of Scottsdale's November 6, 2018 General/Special Election. In addition to electing three Councilmembers, Scottsdale voters are asked to vote on two ballot measures (Question 1 and Proposition 420).

- Question 1. A ballot question authorizing an increase in the rate of transaction privilege and use taxes in the City by 0.10 percent (0.10%) for a period of ten (10) years to provide funds for transportation improvement projects. The tax amounts to one penny on every \$10 purchase in Scottsdale.
- Proposition 420. An amendment to the Scottsdale City Charter proposed by initiative petition. This proposition would amend the city charter to prohibit the alteration of the natural state of preserve lands and limit the use of preserve funds for any purpose other than those specifically outlined in the proposed amendment unless authorized by Scottsdale registered voters at a general or special election.

All qualified electors of the City, regardless of party registration, may vote for three Council candidates and on the two ballot measures.

This pamphlet is required by Arizona Revised Statutes § 19-141 and contains general voting information regarding early voting and identification at the polls, the full text of the proposed measures, the tagline text that will appear on the ballot, and statements in support of and in opposition to Question 1 and Proposition 420.

Beginning on Page 58, are statements prepared and submitted by each of the candidates for this election.

The ballot arguments and candidate statements included in this pamphlet represent the opinions of the authors and have not been edited or checked for accuracy of content.

Additional information about the election is available through the Scottsdale City Clerk's Office, 3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard, (480) 312-2412, and on the Internet:

[www.scottsdaleaz.gov/elections](http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/elections)

You are encouraged to read all of the material contained in this pamphlet and to exercise your right to vote in Scottsdale's November 6, 2018 General/Special Election.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Jagger, MMC  
City Clerk

**TO CAST YOUR VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018, MAKE SURE YOU GO TO THE POLLING PLACE INDICATED ON THE MAILING LABEL OF THIS PAMPHLET.**

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## IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION

**Date of Election** ..... **Tuesday, November 6, 2018**

Your polling place will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. To cast your vote, make sure you go to the polling place indicated on the mailing label of this pamphlet.

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes, any qualified elector, at the voter's option, may be accompanied by a minor, who is permitted in the voting booth; be accompanied and assisted by a person of the voter's own choice; or be assisted by two election officials, one from each major party, during any process relating to voting or during the actual process of voting on a paper ballot, machine, or electronic voting system. A person who is a candidate for an office in that election other than the office of precinct committeeman is not eligible to assist any voter. [A.R.S. §§ 16-515(E) and 16-580(E)].

Any qualified elector who, at 7:00 p.m., is in the line of waiting voters, shall be allowed to prepare and cast a ballot.

**Last Day to Register to Vote** ..... **Tuesday, October 9, 2018**

If you do not know if you are qualified to vote in this election, please call the Maricopa County Elections Office at 602-506-1511.

## EARLY VOTING INFORMATION

**First Day Early Ballots Available** ..... **Wednesday, October 10, 2018**

**Last Day to Request Special Election Board Assistance** ..... **Friday, October 26, 2018**

Your written or verbal request for voting assistance must be received by the Maricopa County Tabulation and Elections Center, 510 S. Third Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85003, 602-506-1511, before 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 26, 2018, and must specify the address of confinement.

**Last Day to Request that an Early Ballot be Mailed to You** ..... **Friday, October 26, 2018**

To have an early ballot mailed to you, the Maricopa County Tabulation and Elections Center, 510 S. Third Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85003, 602-506-1511, must receive your written, verbal, or online request before 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 26, 2018. Your written request must specify where (complete mailing address) to send the early ballot and must contain your signature for verification purposes. Early ballot requests can be made online at:

<https://recorder.maricopa.gov/earlyvotingballot/earlyvotingballotrequest.aspx>

An early ballot by mail also may be requested by calling 480-312-7844 beginning at 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 10, 2018, through 5:00 p.m., Friday, October 26, 2018.

**Last Day to Vote Early in Person** ..... **Friday, November 2, 2018**

Appear at an office designated for early voting no later than the close of business on the last day to vote early in person.

**Last Day to Return a Ballot that was Mailed to You** ..... **by 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 6, 2018**

For your ballot to be valid and counted, your voted early ballot and signed affidavit must be received by the Maricopa County Tabulation and Elections Center by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6, 2018. You may also deposit your ballot and affidavit at any polling place designated for this election from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

The U.S. Postal Service cannot automatically forward ballots to another address. If you will be out of town and would like to receive an early ballot for Scottsdale's General/Special Election, you must register your alternate mailing address with Maricopa County Elections. Your written request must include the following:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Maricopa County residence address
- Alternate mailing address
- Signature
- A note giving Maricopa County permission to send your early ballot to the address provided

You can fax this written request to 602-506-5112, or you can mail it to:

Maricopa County Elections  
Attn: Early Voting  
510 S. 3rd Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85003

## HOW TO VOTE EARLY IN PERSON

### Offices Designated for Early Voting in Person

Early voting in person is being held at the following locations at the times and dates indicated below:

Scottsdale City Hall  
3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd., Scottsdale  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday, October 27, 2018, through Friday, November 2, 2018

Maricopa County Elections  
510 S. Third Avenue, Phoenix  
222 E. Javelina, Mesa  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 10, 2018, through Friday, November 2, 2018  
6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Maricopa County Elections  
111 S. Third Avenue, Phoenix  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 10, 2018, through Friday, November 2, 2018

Additional locations: [www.Locations.Maricopa.Vote](http://www.Locations.Maricopa.Vote)

For additional information, please call the City of Scottsdale Elections Office: 480-312-7844.

- TO CAST YOUR VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018, MAKE SURE YOU GO TO THE POLLING PLACE INDICATED ON THE MAILING LABEL OF THIS PAMPHLET.**

## VOTER IDENTIFICATION AT THE POLLS

Every voter is required to show proof of identity at the polling place before receiving a ballot. This is a result of Proposition 200, the statewide initiative approved by voters in 2004.

### ACCEPTABLE IDENTIFICATION

Following are the types of identification that are acceptable and that can be used when voting at a polling place on Election Day. All identification must match the voter's name and address shown on the Maricopa County Elections Signature Roster.

#### **LIST 1 – Acceptable forms of ID with voter's photograph, name, and address. The address must reasonably match the precinct register (1 required):**

- Valid Arizona driver's license
- Valid Arizona non-operating identification license
- Tribal enrollment card or other form of tribal identification
- Valid United States federal, state, or local government issued identification

#### **LIST 2 – Acceptable forms of ID (no photo) with voter's name and address. The address must reasonably match the precinct register (2 required):**

- Utility bill of the elector dated within 90 days of the election (may be electric, gas, water, solid waste, sewer, telephone, cellular phone, or cable television)
- Bank or credit union statement dated within 90 days of the election
- Valid Arizona vehicle registration
- Indian census card
- Property tax statement of the elector's residence
- Tribal enrollment card or other form of tribal identification
- Arizona vehicle insurance card
- Recorder's Certificate
- Valid United States federal, state, or local government issued identification, including a voter registration card issued by the County Recorder
- Any mailing to the elector marked "Official Election Material"

#### **LIST 3 – Acceptable forms of ID, one with photo, one without (2 required):**

- Any valid photo identification from List 1 in which the address does not match the precinct register accompanied by one valid item from List 2
- United States passport without address and one valid item from List 2
- United States military identification without address and one valid item from List 2

**An identification is "valid" unless it can be determined on its face that it has expired.**

Other forms of identification not on this list must be deemed acceptable by the county election official in charge of elections and must establish the identity of the elector.

### PROVISIONAL BALLOT

If the voter does not have acceptable identification at the polling place, a Provisional Ballot may be voted. Acceptable identification must then be presented to the City Clerk or the Maricopa County Recorder before 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 14, 2018.

**If you have any questions regarding voter identification for the upcoming election contact:**

**City Clerk's Office  
City of Scottsdale  
3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd.  
480-312-2412  
[www.scottsdaleaz.gov/elections](http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/elections)**

# CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA SPECIAL ELECTION

The City Council has proposed a 0.10 percent (0.10%) increase in the transaction privilege and use taxes for a period of ten (10) years to provide funds for transportation improvement projects. The tax amounts to one penny on every \$10 purchase.

## Temporary Transportation Tax Questions and Answers

### 1. What is being voted on?

The ballot proposal would increase the city's transaction privilege and use tax rates by one-tenth of 1 percent (0.10%) for a period of 10 years to provide funds for transportation projects.

### 2. What are transaction privilege and use taxes?

Although commonly referred to as a sales tax, the Arizona Transaction Privilege Tax is actually a tax on the vendor for the privilege of doing business in the state. Various business activities such as retail sales are subject to transaction privilege tax. Like most Arizona cities, Scottsdale has a local transaction privilege tax in addition to state and county transaction privilege taxes.

The use tax is imposed upon the purchaser of tangible personal property which is used, stored, or consumed in Arizona when the sale was not subject to the transaction privilege tax. Out-of-state retailers or utility businesses that sell to Arizona customers are required to collect the Arizona use tax and remit it to the Arizona Department of Revenue. Scottsdale has a local use tax in addition to state and county use taxes.

### 3. How much does the tax amount to?

The tax amounts to one penny on every \$10 purchase.

### 4. What will this money be used for?

The money can only be used for transportation projects.

At its May 1st and previous meetings, the City Council discussed the need to fund additional transportation projects, especially those projects in the Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP) which are eligible for 70 percent matching dollars. A countywide sales tax fund (to which Scottsdale taxpayers have already contributed) supplies the matching dollars if the city pays 30 percent of project costs. So, each \$1 the city spends on eligible projects results in a total project investment of \$3.33. If the city does not fund Scottsdale's local portion, approximately \$170 million of countywide sales tax dollars previously designated for Scottsdale projects would be made available for projects in other communities beginning in 2020.

### 5. What are the Arterial Life Cycle Projects that are eligible for matching funds?

Following are the projects that have been reviewed by Council and are included within the Maricopa Association of Governments Arterial Life Cycle Program:

1. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd at Loop 101 Traffic Interchange. Redesign intersection to improve safety and increase capacity including left-turn and right-turn lane modifications on Frank Lloyd Wright.
2. Raintree Drive at Loop 101 Traffic Interchange (joint with ADOT - three alternative modifications are being considered):
  - Retain single point interchange with increased left-turn storage on Raintree.
  - Convert to conventional diamond interchange.
  - Convert to diamond interchange with roundabouts.
3. Scottsdale Road: Dixileta Drive to Ashler Hills Drive. Construct six-lane arterial with raised median, bike lanes, sidewalks, and trails.
4. Carefree Highway: Cave Creek Rd to Scottsdale Road. Construct four-lane arterial with raised median, bike lanes, and sidewalks.
5. Scottsdale Road: Jomax Road to Dixileta Drive. Construct four-lane arterial with raised median, bike lanes, sidewalks, and trails.

- 6. Scottsdale Road: Ashler Hills Drive to Carefree Highway. Construct four-lane arterial with raised median, bike lanes, sidewalks, and trails.
- 7. Hayden Road at Loop 101 Interchange Improvements. Redesign intersection to improve safety and increase capacity including left-turn and right-turn lane modifications on Hayden.
- 8-17. Shea Boulevard SR-101 to 136th Street (10 Projects). Construct various turn-lane modifications and shared-use crossings at 10 different intersections.
- 18. Pima Road: Chaparral Road to Thomas Road (joint with Salt River-Pima Community). Construct four-lane arterial with raised median, bike lanes, and sidewalks.
- 19. Pima Road: Dynamite Boulevard to Stagecoach Road. Construct two-lane arterial with raised median, bike lanes, sidewalks, and trails, with drainage improvements.
- 20. Pima Road: Happy Valley Road to Dynamite Road. Construct four-lane arterial with raised median, bike lanes, sidewalks, and trails.
- 21. Legacy Drive: Hayden Road to 88th Street. Construct four-lane arterial with raised median, bike lanes, and sidewalks.
- 22. Pima Road: Thomas Road to McDowell Road (joint with Salt River-Pima Community). Construct four-lane arterial with raised median, bike lanes, and sidewalks, with drainage improvements.

**6. Could the money be spent on anything other than transportation improvement projects?**

No.

**7. How does the city's sales tax rate for retail sales compare with other large Valley cities?**



Source: ADOR TPT Tax Rate Table - June 2018 (via <https://azdor.gov/transaction-privilege-tax/tax-rate-table> )

**8. When will the tax end?**

The tax will end 10 years after it begins.

**9. When is the election?**

November 6, 2018.

**10. How can I find out more?**

Visit [ScottsdaleAZ.gov](http://ScottsdaleAZ.gov), search "elections."



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
GENERAL/SPECIAL ELECTION  
NOVEMBER 6, 2018**

**TEXT OF BALLOT**

**QUESTION 1**

**QUESTION 1: SHALL THE CITY COUNCIL BE AUTHORIZED TO INCREASE THE RATE OF TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE AND USE TAXES IN THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE BY 0.10 PERCENT (0.10%) FOR A PERIOD OF TEN (10) YEARS TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS?**

**YES**

**NO**

## **ARGUMENT “FOR” QUESTION 1**

Vote Yes for Question 1 on your November ballot.

As Mayor for nearly 10 years, I hear from residents and businesses about traffic issues, such as backups at intersections, general traffic flow and the overall quality of our streets. Our ability to move people, products and services safely and efficiently is a priority for our quality of life and public safety.

We have an opportunity with this vote for a slight temporary increase in our transportation sales tax by one tenth of 1% to enable your city to address 22 important capital life cycle street projects that will enhance, expand and extend the life of our streets, as well as to prevent the loss of over \$170 million in Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) matching funds.

Your vote for the increase to this dedicated transportation sales tax will generate over ten years the more than \$70 million necessary match for \$170M of MAG regional transportation funds.

These MAG funds have already been paid by all of us and allocated by the MAG Regional Council to Scottsdale for these projects. If we cannot raise our \$70M match very soon we will lose \$170M of MAG regional transportation funds. They will be reallocated to other cities, and we must come up with the entire \$240M for these 22 street projects.

Five years of reduced tax receipts in the Great Recession damaged our ability to keep up with the matching requirements for these regionally qualified projects.

Question 1 on your November ballot asks you to support this increase to the transportation sales tax to fund our streets citywide and ensure we receive our MAG transportation allocation of \$170M.

Please join me in supporting Question 1 to help fund critical street improvement projects in Scottsdale.

Mayor W. J. “Jim” Lane

## **ARGUMENT “FOR” QUESTION 1**

Vote Yes for Scottsdale Streets

Streets that all of us can travel easily and safely are among the most important infrastructure needs in Scottsdale.

Question 1 on the November ballot will increase Scottsdale’s transportation sales and use tax by one-tenth of 1% (0.10%) for a period of 10 years. The tax amounts to one penny on every \$10 purchase and would be paid by those who travel city streets, including residents, tens of thousands of employees who work here and live elsewhere, as well as the nine million people who visit Scottsdale each year.

It will fund 22 street enhancement projects throughout the city that are eligible for Maricopa County matching funds. These projects include two on Pima Road from Chaparral Road to McDowell Road, 10 projects along Shea Boulevard east of the 101 Freeway, three on Scottsdale Road from Jomax Road to Carefree Highway, and others on Hayden Road, Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard, and various other arterial streets throughout the city.

A complete list of the 22 projects can be found on the City’s website at [scottsdaleaz.gov](http://scottsdaleaz.gov), search “elections” or at [yesforscottsdalestreets.com](http://yesforscottsdalestreets.com).

Even with the retail sales tax increase, Scottsdale’s rate, if approved at \$0.0175, would remain the third lowest rate among the eight largest cities in Maricopa County.

The City Council agrees that we must find funds soon for these street projects or we risk losing matching funds from the County. The new temporary tax will raise \$70 million of the cost, while the County will match the remaining \$170 million needed. The County funds have already been raised from taxes paid by Scottsdale taxpayers.

Please join us in supporting Question 1 for critical street improvements throughout the city.

Vice Mayor Guy Phillips

Councilwoman Suzanne Klapp

### **ARGUMENT “FOR” QUESTION 1**

I support the approval of Question 1 for the following reasons:

First, the revenue (about \$70 million) will allow Scottsdale to get an additional \$170 million in funding from Maricopa County; in other words, a “yes” vote will provide approximately \$240 million in funding for street improvement projects throughout Scottsdale including along Pima, Scottsdale, Hayden and Frank Lloyd Wright and many other streets.

Second, the \$170 million from Maricopa County will be from a countywide fund which Scottsdale residents have already paid into. If we don’t use it, we lose it.

Third, a Scottsdale sales tax is paid by everyone who makes a purchase in Scottsdale, not just by Scottsdale residents. Our status as a tourism and retail center allows us to benefit from contributions by non-residents.

Fourth, the tax is nominal—the equivalent of a penny on every \$10 spent; or \$30 on a \$30,000 car. Over 30 years, I’ve purchased more than ten cars for my family and myself—all in Scottsdale; this tax isn’t going to discourage me from making my next purchase in Scottsdale.

Fifth, even with this 10-year tax, Scottsdale will still have the third lowest sales tax rate in the Valley.

My family and I have lived in Scottsdale for more than 30 years. I have served as HOA President at Scottsdale Ranch; we now live at Scottsdale Mountain. I’ve served on a Charter Review Task Force and initiated the process to adopt an Ethics Code for the City Council and all city employees. We love Scottsdale because of its friendly atmosphere, its low taxes and its great amenities. A “yes” vote will help enhance Scottsdale’s transportation infrastructure at a very low cost and return to us county matching funds that we have already paid. I urge a “yes” vote on Question 1.

Jim Derouin, Long Time Resident and Interested Citizen

### **ARGUMENT “FOR” QUESTION 1**

I ask you to vote Yes for Question 1 on Scottsdale’s November ballot. Here’s why.

We are asked in Question 1 to approve a .10% increase in the transportation sales and use tax for 10 years. The money from this tax can only be used for transportation improvement projects. Many of our city’s major streets – Scottsdale Road, Hayden, Pima, Shea Boulevard, Frank Lloyd Wright, Legacy, Raintree and Carefree Highway – need extensive improvements to relieve traffic congestion and increase capacity and safety.

As more and more visitors and employees at local businesses spend time on our city streets, transportation improvements become one of the greatest needs to be met on a list of infrastructure projects.

I see this need regularly as I travel near the eastern end of Shea Boulevard to reach the 101 Freeway. Drivers from Fountain Hills have one way into and out of our city, and that route is along Shea. A transportation sales tax on purchases is the best way for these visitors to pay for constant use of our streets.

The tax increase requested is quite small. It amounts to one penny on every \$10 purchase. It will generate \$70 million in revenues over 10 years to pay for 22 enhancement projects on the arterial streets I mentioned. And, even better, the revenues will allow us to receive \$170 million in matching funds due to us from transportation taxes already collected in Maricopa County. This is our money, but we only get it if we can provide our portion of the total required funds for all the projects. If we cannot raise our local portion, then the County funds will be allocated to other communities starting in 2020.

Please vote YES for Question 1.

Dennis Robbins

### **ARGUMENT “FOR” QUESTION 1**

For many years Scottsdale voters have made it clear to its leaders that when it comes to voting to tax themselves, they require a clear and concise reason as to why they should approve any measure which asks them to open up their wallets. Repeatedly bond and tax proposals have been turned down for being arbitrary and unjustifiable. Fortunately, a majority of the city council has recognized the wisdom of the Scottsdale voter, so that is not the case today with the Question 1 ballot proposal. Question 1 authorizes an increase in the rate of transaction privilege and use taxes in the City by 0.10 percent (0.10%) for a period of ten (10) years to provide funds for specified transportation improvement projects. If approved this tax will allow Scottsdale to access reportedly \$170 million dollars in County matching transportation funds, which have already been raised from the 2004 Arizona Prop 400 half cent sales tax increase. Scottsdale must provide its portion of the matching funds to access these County funds. Economically this makes very good sense and is very important to Scottsdale. Additionally, unlike other prior bond or tax proposals, this Question 1 ballot proposal is direct as to its purpose by funding specific and necessary transportation improvement projects in Scottsdale, especially 22 projects included in the Maricopa Association of Governments Arterial Life Cycle Program.

While history has shown the astute Scottsdale voter to have been justifiably skeptical when it comes to separating them from their money, the justification and reasons for approving this Question 1 today is very strong. I urge you to VOTE YES on Question 1.

Respectfully

James Heitel

Past Member and Chair Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission

Past Member Scottsdale Planning Commission

### **ARGUMENT “FOR” QUESTION 1**

My company is in Scottsdale, and I absolutely love the city and love doing business here. Although I live across the city's border, I spend my days working in Scottsdale and also spend a great deal here on purchases for my company and on restaurants, shopping and entertainment.

The request in Question 1 on the ballot to increase the transportation sales tax nominally is a wise one because easing congestion and improving traffic flow and safety along city streets is one of the most important roles the city can play. The tax increase is equal to one penny on each \$10 that I spend, so small that it will have no effect on my desire to buy in Scottsdale. Even though I do not actually live inside the city boundaries, I am willing to pay a little extra for the benefits the city offers.

I am particularly pleased that the monies generated by the tax will be in part used to improve interchanges at Raintree and also at Hayden by the 101 Freeway. These intersections are close to my business near WestWorld in North Scottsdale. My clients and my employees welcome any improvements to their commutes.

Take my word for it. I travel all over Scottsdale every day and use many of the streets that are on the list of 22 projects to be significantly improved. I am willing to pay a fair share of the additional cost to assure that I can easily and safely navigate the city's streets.

I urge your "Yes" vote for Question 1 on the ballot. It is the best vote for Scottsdale.

Irene Clary  
SOHO Scottsdale and Catclar Investments

### **ARGUMENT "FOR" QUESTION 1**

As owner of Pejman Gallery and a resident of Scottsdale, I am very concerned that our streets are safe and improved to the highest possible level. Put another way, Scottsdale is a world class city and I would like it to remain that way, because my customers expect it.

I am therefore in complete support of Question 1 on the ballot which will increase Scottsdale's transportation sales and use tax by one-tenth of 1% (.10%) for a period of 10 years. In other words, our City sales tax rate would increase from 1.65% to 1.75% for the next 10 years.

From my perspective as a Scottsdale retail business owner, the effect of this additional tax is so negligible on clients' purchases that it will in no way negatively impact or cause the loss of any sales in Scottsdale. In our art gallery, if we are fortunate to sell a \$5,000 piece of art to a local client, the .10% sales tax increase will amount to a mere \$5. Even for very large purchases such as automobiles, this sales tax increase will only add \$40 to a purchase of a \$40,000 car in Scottsdale. In my opinion, the percentage increase is so low that it will not affect any purchasing decisions in Scottsdale.

The benefit of funding the street improvement costs with a sales tax vs property tax is that the sales tax increase will be imposed on purchases made in the City on residents and visitors alike. In other words, the 9 million tourists and tens of thousands of employees who travel to Scottsdale and use our streets will share the burden with residents.

This is the most cost effective and win-win strategy for funding our transportation infrastructure improvements. Please support Question 1 on your ballot.

Bob Pejman  
Pejman Gallery LLC

### **ARGUMENT "FOR" QUESTION 1**

Please vote YES on Question 1.

Like most Scottsdale residents I don't want to pay too much in taxes, but I do want my city's roads kept in good repair. Right now, many of Scottsdale's streets are in dire need of both expansion and replacement. They are not only deteriorating past their normal useful life but need to be expanded to handle a heavier traffic flow as more people come here. I believe the most effective, economic and fair way to do this is by voting YES on Question 1.

Here's why: Eighteen years ago, Maricopa County put a proposition on the ballot asking citizens to raise money for our County-wide transportation needs. The Proposition passed and county residents - including those of us in Scottsdale - have been paying sales taxes into this fund ever since. For Scottsdale to receive its share of these monies, we must have a dedicated revenue stream which will be spent for specific transportation projects inside Scottsdale. There are 22 projects which are eligible for these matching funds. You can find a complete list of these projects on the City's website ([ScottsdaleAZ.gov](http://ScottsdaleAZ.gov), search "elections") or at [yesforscottsdalestreets.com](http://yesforscottsdalestreets.com).

This tax will serve as the required dedicated revenue stream and allow us to receive back the tax money we have already paid for the benefit of Scottsdale. The sales tax increase request is 1/10th of 1% for a period of ten years, which will raise approximately \$71M in transportation tax monies, against which the County will match an additional \$170M. If we don't pass Question 1 the approximately \$170M will be distributed to other cities and towns in Maricopa County.

We need to use Scottsdale's taxes for Scottsdale's benefit. Support Question 1 so we can make these critical street improvements throughout all parts of our city.

Scottsdale City Councilwoman Kathy Littlefield

## **ARGUMENT "FOR" QUESTION 1**

### **Temporary Transportation Sales Tax Makes Good Sense for Scottsdale Quality of Life**

The world class quality of life we enjoy in Scottsdale is due in part to the excellent city services we receive. This includes well-maintained streets that benefit residents, tourists and employees of local businesses. The proposed Temporary Transportation Sales Tax will help ensure the quality of local roads and streets we all depend upon.

The proposed sales tax is small (.10%, or one penny for each \$10 purchased) and limited to 10 years. During that time, the proposal will raise an estimated \$70 million for targeted street projects. Most importantly, these dollars will enable the city to leverage access to an additional \$170 million match from Maricopa County. We will lose access to these funds if Scottsdale voters reject the transportation tax.

With approval of this ballot measure, funds generated will go directly to improving the quality of streets, benefiting the safety of the traveling public and reducing congestion on major thoroughfares across Scottsdale. We will see immediate improvements in the roads we all travel every day.

Scottsdale has one of the lowest local sales-tax rates in the Valley. Even with the proposed tax increase, our city will still be 3rd lowest in the county.

The Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce does not typically advocate for increased taxes. But, in this case, we strongly support the Temporary Transportation Sales Tax and ask that you join us in voting YES during the special election on November 6, 2018.

Board of Directors - Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce

## **ARGUMENT "FOR" QUESTION 1**

I have served on Scottsdale's Transportation Commission for the past five years. I appreciate the high-quality roads and paths that set us apart from other cities.

I'm voting "Yes" on Question 1 for the following reasons:

1. Tourism is Scottsdale's top industry. Visitors come to our city for its weather, beauty, and an experience few other cities offer. An important part of their impression of Scottsdale is our well-maintained streets and walking and bike paths that make it easy to get around our city.
2. Scottsdale is very livable, in part, because we make transportation investments that reduce traffic and increase safety for both visitors and residents.

3. Each dollar from Question 1 will be matched by two-dollars of regional funds, which will otherwise expire. The projects designated for these funds will make driving, walking, and riding in Scottsdale much easier and safer for our visitors and residents.

I encourage you to vote "Yes" for Question 1.

Barry Graham  
Vice Chair, Scottsdale Transportation Commission

### **ARGUMENT "FOR" QUESTION 1**

Scottsdale has two questions this election. Both offer voters control and authority over the building blocks of the City. I will vote "YES" on 420, which puts the future of the Preserve in the hands of the citizens. I will also vote "YES" on Scottsda Question 1, to improve our roads and infrastructure.

Question 1 is a well-formed, specific request to the taxpayers to invest in their City. There are 22 transparent, necessary transportation projects in the request. Question 1 is not the bloated like non-specific bond requests of the past. Question 1 does not sucker the taxpayers with false promises and bent rules for special-interest projects. We know where our money is going. We can be confident our money will be used for what we voted.

Question 1 makes the most of our resources. We will tax ourselves \$70M over 10 years, but get \$170M in County matching funds. 3.5x on the dollar is a good investment. Payments from visitors and commuters helps the burden on Scottsdale taxpayers. The \$70M for the Desert Edge\DDC could go to our roads and infrastructure.

Question 1 is the right role for government. The City of Scottsdale should be supporting roads, bridges and transportation. The City should not be supporting pet projects that fall outside the scope of limited government. No one likes taxes - neither liberals nor conservatives. But we all agree that we need to invest in our infrastructure. We agree on limited, transparent government serving the good of the citizens.

I will votes "YES" on Question 1 and "YES" on 420.

Jason Alexander  
Scottsdale resident

### **ARGUMENT "FOR" QUESTION 1**

The Scottsdale Area Association of REALTORS® supports a YES vote on Ballot Question 1 for the November 6, 2018 Scottsdale election.

Maintenance of our city streets is critical for handling proper traffic flow and ease of accessibility throughout our beautiful community. The cost to maintain our roadways, bike paths, and sidewalks requires extensive financial commitment. Currently there are 22 needed street improvement projects which are not funded by current revenue sources.

There is a solution though! Through the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Arterial Life Cycle Program there is approximately \$170 million of matching funds available for Scottsdale transportation needs, collected from a countywide sales tax, which Scottsdale taxpayers have already been paying. The City of Scottsdale can only access these matching funds however, if approximately \$71 million is raised before 2020. Lack of utilization of the matching funds will result in the \$170 million being made available to other communities beginning in 2020.

To raise the required \$71 million, it is dependent upon the citizens to vote YES on Ballot Question 1 and approve a sales tax increase of (0.10%) for a period of 10 years.

After careful analysis by our association we have determined that this initiative aligns with our public policy statement. Specifically, our priority to offer efficient transportation systems, and the infrastructure that provides the framework for the quality of life we enjoy in our communities.

Scottsdale Area Association of REALTORS®

## **ARGUMENT “FOR” QUESTION 1**

I support and will vote Yes on Question 1.

Passing Question 1 will provide much-needed revenue for transportation improvement projects throughout Scottsdale.

Improving Scottsdale’s transportation infrastructure now is critical to making our streets, roads and bridges safer, easing traffic congestion, and enhancing quality of life.

A strong transportation system will also help us manage future growth.

**The math is simple: We invest \$100 million over 10 years to get \$140 million in funds from Proposition 400, the countywide, half-cent sales tax for regional transportation improvements in 2004.**

If we fail to make this investment, Scottsdale loses out on these regional transportation funds – not just now, but forever.

This fiscally responsible and practical solution will suffice for our immediate funding needs while capturing the Proposition 400 dollars.

The temporary increase in our sales tax rate is low enough to keep us competitive with many neighboring cities.

The reason we are in this dire situation is because previous bond packages have failed at the ballot box. There is no appetite to proceed further into bond campaigns at the present time. With a divided City Council this is not the time to campaign for bonds.

I believe the sales tax is the best and most viable option at the present time.

If Question 1 is successful, I fully support our City Council developing a well-thought-out, accountable and transparent bond package that not only addresses our remaining infrastructure, transportation and capital investment needs, but will also have resident support.

Please vote Yes on Question 1.

Bill Crawford

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” QUESTION 1**

No arguments were submitted against Question 1.

**The “for” and “against” arguments were reproduced as submitted and were not edited for spelling, grammar, or punctuation. These arguments represent the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy of content.**



**OFFICIAL TITLE**

**AN INITIATIVE MEASURE**

**AMENDING ARTICLE 8 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA, BY ADDING SECTIONS 12 AND 13; RELATING TO THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE.**

**TEXT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

Be it enacted by the People of the City of Scottsdale:

**Section 1. Official Title.**

This Act shall be referred to as the “McDowell Sonoran Preserve Protection Act”

**Section 2. Findings and Declaration of Policy.**

The People of the City of Scottsdale (the “People”) find and declare as follows:

- A. The McDowell Sonoran Preserve (“MSP”) was formed by the People for the express purpose of preventing any development on preserve land.
- B. The People bought the preserve land by approving two sales tax increases for the specific purpose of buying land for preservation.
- C. Article 8 Section 8 of the City Charter requires that preserve land be left in its natural state.
- D. The second sales tax approved by the People permitted some funds to be used for “improvements” to preserved land, but did not authorize any construction on that land. The only improvements mentioned were trails and trail heads necessary to provide public access to those trails.
- E. The City Attorney has determined that because of that second vote, the City can build whatever it wants in the Preserve without a public vote. This denies the public a say in what happens in its Preserve.
- F. The existing MSP provides for limited public access to provide for passive recreation, while also protecting the Preserve, and has essential trailhead facilities to support access to trails, including handicapped accessible trails. Numerous visitors to the MSP are attracted to a “natural home” where they are able to find an inner peace as they become embedded with nature. The MSP has attracted large numbers of tourists and residents, has improved Scottsdale’s quality of life, and has been an overwhelming success.
- G. All of the planned trails and trail heads, to support public access, have already been built or are under construction so there is no need for any additional “improvements” to the MSP. Therefore, with the exception of new trails approved by the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission, any additional improvements should require public approval.
- H. The City is proposing to build a museum/event center in the MSP that will violate many of the rules that were established to prevent the MSP from being transformed into a park or a commercial development. Commercial encroachment into the MSP would also set a negative precedent that could open the MSP for further commercial development. The People voted for a preserve, not a park.
- I. Because the People formed and paid for the MSP with the express intent of preserving the land, their approval should be required (subject to certain limited exceptions provided for in the Act) for any: (1) alterations to the natural state of that land, or (2) use of funds raised via the specific sales tax dedicated to the MSP.
- J. This Act should be liberally construed to ensure that the will of the People is carried out as described above.

### **Section 3. Amendments to Article 8 of the Charter of the City of Scottsdale**

**Article 8 of the Charter of the City of Scottsdale is amended as follows to add Sections 12 and 13:**

#### **Article 8: Contracts**

##### **Sec. 1. Preparation.**

All contracts shall be executed in the name of the City of Scottsdale by the mayor, except as it may be otherwise provided either by this charter, by law, or by ordinance or resolution of the city council. Contracts executed by the mayor must be countersigned by the city clerk who shall number and register the same in a book kept for that purpose.

##### **Sec. 2. Contracts for city improvements.**

The city may contract for city improvements as provided by law. When required, all such contracts shall be executed in writing and shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder after public notice and competition unless the council rejects all bids.

##### **Sec. 3. Purchases and bids.**

The city council shall by ordinance specify the conditions and procedures that shall apply when formal bidding is required, when informal bidding is required, and when no bidding is required, for all goods and services contracted for by the city.

##### **Sec. 4. Transfer of property.**

The city manager may transfer to or between offices, departments and agencies supplies, materials and equipment, subject to such regulations as the council may prescribe.

##### **Sec. 5. Fraud and collusion.**

Any member of the council or any officer or employee of the city who shall aid or assist a bidder in securing a contract to furnish labor, material, equipment, supplies or services at a higher price than proposed by any other bidder, or who shall favor one bidder over another by giving or withholding information or who shall willfully mislead any bidder in regard to the character of the labor, material, equipment, supplies or services called for, or the conditions under which the proposed work is to be done, or who shall knowingly accept materials, supplies, or equipment of a quality inferior to those called for by any contract, or who shall knowingly certify to a greater amount of labor or service performed than has been actually performed or to receipt of a greater amount or different kind of material, supplies, or equipment than was actually received, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be removed from office.

##### **Sec. 6. Conflict of interest.**

All elected and appointed officers of the city, including members of boards and commissions; whether established by charter, ordinance, resolution, state constitution or statute; and all city employees shall be subject to the conflict of interest laws of the state of Arizona.

##### **Sec. 7. Sale or transfer of interests in city property.**

The city council shall, by ordinance, specify the conditions and procedures that shall apply when formal bidding is required, when informal bidding is required, and when no bidding is required for leasing, selling, or disposing of other interests in city real or personal property in a manner provided by law.

**Sec. 8. Preserve land designation.**

To establish a mountain and desert preservation heritage for present and future citizens of the city, the council may designate as preserve land any land owned by the city which is suitable for mountain or desert preservation. The council shall designate preserve land by resolution. Land purchased directly with the proceeds of a tax specifically authorized by the electors for purchase of preserve land shall be deemed designated as preserve land upon the city's acquisition. Land that may be designated as preserve land is any land owned by the city in fee title and any other real property interest which gives the city possession or use of land or power to cause land to be left in its natural condition.

**Sec. 9. Permanent designation.**

A preserve land designation shall be perpetual unless that designation is removed as provided in this charter.

**Sec. 10. Encumbrance of preserve land.**

The city shall not convey ownership or grant any easement, lease, lien or other real property interest in any land designated as preserve land.

**Sec. 11. Removal of preserve land designation.**

The council may remove the preserve designation from any parcel of land less than one (1) acre in area. Such removal shall be limited to a maximum of six (6) parcels within any one (1) calendar year. Such removal shall not become effective until sixty (60) days after an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all members of the council and after resolution of any referendum concerning such removal. Removal of the preserve designation from any other parcel of land shall require approval by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all members of the council, but shall not become effective unless submitted by the council to the electors and approved by vote of the majority of votes cast at the election.

**SEC. 12. PROHIBITION ON ALTERING THE NATURAL STATE OF PRESERVE LAND.**

- A. NO LAND DESIGNATED AS PRESERVE LAND PURSUANT TO SECTION 8 OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE ALTERED FROM ITS NATURAL STATE UNLESS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST THEREON AT A GENERAL OR SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION.
- B. THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:
  - (1) NEW TRAILS APPROVED BY THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION;
  - (2) MAINTENANCE ON EXISTING TRAILS AND TRAIL HEADS THAT WERE COMPLETED OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION;
  - (3) MAINTENANCE ON TRAILS ADDED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF THIS SECTION;
  - (4) APPROPRIATE RESTORATION EFFORTS WITHIN THE PRESERVE;
  - (5) EXPANSION OF TRAIL HEAD PARKING FACILITIES AS DEPICTED IN EACH APPROVED TRAIL HEAD PLAN; AND
  - (6) COMPLETING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LITTLE GRANITE, FRAESFIELD, AND PIMA/ DYNAMITE TRAIL HEADS, AND ANY NECESSARY TRAIL CONNECTIONS, AS DEPICTED IN EACH TRAIL HEAD'S APPROVED PLAN PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION.

**SEC. 13. LIMITATIONS ON THE USE OF PRESERVE FUNDS.**

- A. PRESERVE FUNDS SHALL NOT BE APPROPRIATED OR SPENT BY THE CITY FOR ANY PURPOSE OTHER THAN THE ACQUISITION OF PRESERVE LAND, THE BUILDING OF NEW TRAILS AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 12(B)(1) OF THIS ARTICLE, OR THE SERVICING OF ANY PRINCIPAL, INTEREST, OR APPROPRIATE COSTS RELATED TO BONDS ISSUED AGAINST PRESERVE FUNDS, UNLESS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST THEREON AT A GENERAL OR SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION.
- B. THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO FUNDING IMPROVEMENTS THAT EXISTED PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION OR THOSE AUTHORIZED BY SECTIONS 12(B)(1), 12(B)(5), AND 12(B)(6) OF THIS ARTICLE.
- C. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "PRESERVE FUNDS" MEANS ALL FUNDS GENERATED BY:
  - (1) THE SALES TAX INCREASES AUTHORIZED BY THE PASSAGE OF PROPOSITION 400 IN 1995 AND BALLOT QUESTION 1 IN 2004;
  - (2) ANY FUTURE NET INCREASES IN CITY REVENUE AUTHORIZED OR IMPOSED FOR PURPOSES OF ACQUIRING OR MAINTAINING PRESERVE LAND; AND
  - (3) THE PROCEEDS FROM ANY FUTURE SALE OF MUNICIPAL OR GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR PURPOSES OF ACQUIRING LAND OR CONSTRUCTING TRAILS AND TRAIL HEADS FOR THE PRESERVE.

**Section 4. Administrative Acts.**

The City shall make any and all notifications and take all administrative steps that may be required by law to effectuate the amendments to the Charter provided for in this Act

**Section 5. Effective Date.**

This Act shall be effective immediately upon its passage by the People of the City of Scottsdale.

**Section 6. Severability.**

If any provision of this measure is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity does not affect other provisions that can be given effect without the invalid provisions.

**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
GENERAL/SPECIAL ELECTION  
NOVEMBER 6, 2018**

**TEXT OF BALLOT**

**PROPOSITION 420 (Full Text)**

**AMENDMENT TO THE SCOTTSDALE CITY CHARTER  
PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION**

**OFFICIAL TITLE: SHALL ARTICLE 8, CONTRACTS, OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE BE AMENDED TO ADD SECTION 12, PROHIBITING THE ALTERATION OF THE NATURAL STATE OF PRESERVE LAND, AND SECTION 13, LIMITING THE USE OF PRESERVE FUNDS?**

**DESCRIPTIVE TITLE:** This proposition would amend the city charter to prohibit the alteration of the natural state of preserve lands and limit the use of preserve funds for any purpose other than those specifically outlined in the proposed amendment unless authorized by Scottsdale registered voters at a general or special election.

A “yes” vote shall have the effect of adding language to the city charter to prohibit the alteration of the natural state of preserve lands and limit the use of preserve funds for any purpose other than those specifically outlined in the proposed amendment unless authorized by Scottsdale registered voters at a general or special election.

A “no” vote shall have the effect of retaining the current charter language.

**YES**

**NO**

**PROPOSITION 420 (Tagline Text)**

**SHALL THE AMENDMENT TO THE SCOTTSDALE CITY CHARTER PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION RELATING TO THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE BE APPROVED?**

A “yes” vote shall have the effect of adding language to the city charter to prohibit the alteration of the natural state of preserve lands and limit the use of preserve funds for any purpose other than those specifically outlined in the proposed amendment unless authorized by Scottsdale registered voters at a general or special election.

A “no” vote shall have the effect of retaining the current charter language.

**YES**

**NO**

## **ARGUMENT “FOR” PROPOSITION 420**

**Preserve:** The Cambridge Dictionary defines “preserve” as “to keep something as it is.” That was the simple concept Scottsdale residents endorsed when they approved additional sales taxes to preserve the natural beauty of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

But now, our City Council thinks that the Preserve can be “improved” by building the Desert Edge, a \$68 million, 120,000 square foot entertainment center, which would include a café, a gift shop, hefty admission fees, and an event center. The Desert Edge is projected to lose money, which will absorb funds Scottsdale desperately needs for infrastructure improvements. Worst of all, the City Council believes Scottsdale citizens are not entitled to vote on this plan.

How can the Council justify these shenanigans? The Preserve Ordinance allows “improvements” to the Preserve, but this provision was intended simply to allow for facilities to access the Preserve, such as trailheads, restrooms, etc. The Council has decided, however, that “improvements” means whatever the Council wants it to mean. There are no limits on the Council’s definition of “improvements.” For example, a hotel might be convenient for visitors who wish to visit the Preserve, and therefore viewed as an “improvement.”

The citizens of Scottsdale have risen to stop this boondoggle. Protect Our Preserve PAC was created to undertake the herculean effort of gathering signatures to place this initiative on the ballot to stop the Desert Edge. The response to the PAC’s efforts have been phenomenal, with hundreds of volunteers gathering over 37,000 signatures to place this issue on the ballot. A “YES” vote on Proposition 420 will keep the Preserve “as it is” and prevent any construction in the Preserve, unless approved by a citizen vote, and will prevent Preserve funds from being used for any construction.

Our Preserve, Our Money, Our Vote! Vote Yes on Proposition 420!

Protect Our Preserve PAC  
Thomas C. Durham, Treasurer

## **ARGUMENT “FOR” PROPOSITION 420**

Over 20 years ago visionary citizens of Scottsdale started a movement to preserve large areas of pristine desert for future generations to enjoy. The citizens embraced this concept and through the years passed five ballot measures to accomplish the goal. Included in these measures were two votes to increase sales tax to make funds available for land purchase and establish what has now become the largest urban preserve in the nation. There has never been a mention in any of these ballot measures of using our sales tax dollars for major construction that would alter the natural state of the preserved lands. The City Council has now proposed construction that violates our trust and their promises, and they feel it is their right to do so. We now have a chance to decide who should control development in our Preserve, four members of the City Council or citizens.

This initiative gives citizens a voice and a vote on anything built in the Preserve and how Preserve funds are spent. The immediate impact on the DDC/DE is that if the advocates want to build it in the Preserve, they would need to convince the public to vote for it. A yes vote on this initiative gives the public control over their Preserve, now and into the future. A yes vote prevents City Council from unilaterally carving up the Preserve for their pet projects. Once passed, City Council cannot rescind this initiative. Charter changes must be ratified by public vote.

Our Preserve, Our Money, Our Vote

Vote yes on Prop. 420

Protect Our Preserve  
Howard Myers, President  
Betty Janik, Treasurer

## **ARGUMENT “FOR” PROPOSITION 420**

NoDDC was formed two years ago to oppose construction of the Desert Edge project in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve without the public vote required under Article 8, Section 11 of the Scottsdale City Charter. The 2004 ballot package that funded the Preserve says absolutely nothing about commercial attractions. We were aghast and dumbfounded that our City Council believe that a simple majority of four people could build a \$68M tourist event center in our Preserve, pay for it with sales taxes, and open the entire 30,000 acre Preserve to commercial development.

We launched a review of 25,000 pages of public records related to the Desert Edge. We found the people behind the Desert Edge had engaged in a years-long campaign of lobbying of our City Council, City Attorney, City Manager and the public. All while paying themselves six-figure salaries with tax dollars. We shared our findings and raised public awareness, sued the City, and filed a detailed complaint with the IRS.

The special interests supporting the Desert Edge denigrated us and marginalized our efforts. They called us liars in the Scottsdale Independent, threatened people with arrest at public meetings, and conducted marketing campaigns pitting North Scottsdale vs. South. The project’s chief proponent -- Councilwoman Linda Milhaven -- infamously called us terrorists at a City Council meeting. Why? For demanding a vote over our Preserve and our taxes?

Milhaven’s refusal to compromise motivated citizens to collect 37,608 signatures of Scottsdale voters to modify the City Charter. This ballot initiative explicitly, incontrovertibly, undeniably places control of the Preserve and Preserve Fund in the hands of the citizens. Not the City Council. Not the special interests. Not the lobbyists. They can still propose their tourist event center. But by voting YES, we guarantee it’s our Preserve and our decision.

Vote YES.

NoDDC Inc.  
Jason Alexander, Director  
Mike Norton, Director

## **ARGUMENT “FOR” PROPOSITION 420**

In 1998, the City Council put Propositions 410 and 411 on the ballot. The voters of Scottsdale passed them to add the Preserve Charter Amendment to the City Charter. This was an attempt to provide the highest legal protection that a city could endow upon land to protect it from development. The voters wisely permitted some land to be removed from the preserve designation, but in limited quantities (less than an acre, and no more than six parcels per year). The City has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayer money to plan and develop the Desert Discovery Center, now known as Desert Edge. The latest iteration seeks to develop it by using six 0.9-acre contiguous parcels to fall within the removal provisions, that require a vote of the people and a 2/3 vote of the City Council to do. In other words, the City is playing legal games with the Charter provisions that prohibit a 35-acre (the Desert Discovery Center) or a 5.4-acre (Desert Edge) removal of preserve status. On September 25, 2017, two non-profits, NoDDC Inc. and Protect Our Preserve, commenced a lawsuit to permanently enjoin the City from violating the Preserve Charter Amendment. The McDowell Preserve Protection Act will legally strengthen the Charter’s prohibition against alteration of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve from its natural state. Vote YES.

*-Jason Lamm, Attorney*

## **ARGUMENT “FOR” PROPOSITION 420**

The creation of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve is possibly the most significant accomplishment in Scottsdale’s history, and perhaps in urban planning nationwide. Residents throughout the city voted multiple times to specifically preserve from development, over 30,000 acres; using their own money to purchase and maintain it in pristine state, for generations to come.

For over ten years, council majorities under the pretext of education have paid out, in total, millions of dollars of public and Preserve funds to advocates and consultant’s intent on developing in the Preserve, commercial/retail/convention uses specifically not permitted. Concerns from the Preserve Commission and citizens were repeatedly ignored. Their plan included improperly using millions of dedicated Preserve dollars for construction and an annual operating deficit for the citizens to forever pay. Thankfully, in an out-pouring of historic significance, nearly 37,000 Scottsdale citizens have said this is enough.

Unfortunately, an inevitable disinformation campaign has begun by those hoping to prevail with this commercial development in the Preserve. Already we hear their predictable attempt to divide our community, North vs. South. In a new shameful twist, we are being told that ONLY THEIR retail/ commercial “edu-tainment” convention center can accommodate the need for further education or benefit those whose physical abilities prevent them from accessing the greater Preserve. No other ideas which are respectful of the Preserve vision have ever been seriously considered.

Be clear nothing in this initiative prohibits citizens from evolving with the times and approving future proposals which may currently not be allowed. Now however, the task is clear, every Scottsdale voter must reassert Scottsdale citizen authority over the Preserve by VOTING YES to preserve this jewel for lifetimes to come.

Respectfully,

James Heitel  
Past Chairman Mc Dowell Sonoran Preserve Commission  
Past Member Planning Commission

Gerald Miller  
Past Chairman Mc Dowell Sonoran Preserve Commission

## **ARGUMENT “FOR” PROPOSITION 420**

While collecting signatures for this initiative, I was frequently asked why I was doing that. Residents thought that the McDowell Sonoran Preserve was already protected forever. As the Mayor who fought for the Preserve since the beginning, I also believed that! However, the council believes that they can override the Preserve Ordinance and build the Desert Edge inside the Preserve using the Preserve Tax to do it!

We must vote YES to prevent this from happening! If the Council believes that they could build this project inside the Preserve and prevent all future projects, they are sadly mistaken! It would set a very damaging precedent and lead to the end of our amazing, unique Preserve. Also, the DE business plan indicates that the city will have to foot the bill for more than \$1.6 million in operating deficits every year! How can the city even consider doing that when it cannot fund the current, seriously needed \$800 million in capital projects? Our Preserve has grown into a major tourism draw, already provides many educational programs and opportunities for all ages and abilities, partners with ASU on scientific projects, and is managed by a terrific non-profit, the Conservancy, with thousands of wonderful volunteers who are the heart and soul of our Preserve.



Every major decision regarding the Preserve has been voted on by the public. That is why we worked tirelessly to get this initiative on the ballot. Everyone deserves the opportunity to vote on something so critical to the future of our Preserve. The city council made a major miscalculation by not terminating the DE project after the flawed business plan was presented and then, again, by forcing the community to put this initiative on the ballot!

The integrity and future of our Preserve is on the line. Vote YES!

Mary Manross  
Former Mayor of Scottsdale

### **ARGUMENT “FOR” PROPOSITION 420**

The Palo Verde Group of the Sierra Club supports Scottsdale’s ballot initiative to amend the city charter to require a public vote for any new construction on Preserve land and for determining the use of Preserve funds for anything other than land acquisition and building approved trails.

Our organization appreciates some aspects of the proposed Desert Edge project, particularly those educational aspects offered by ASU and efforts to provide greater accessibility for people with disabilities. We continue to believe, however, that the \$61 million, 6 acre, 47,000 square foot tourist attraction is better suited to a location off Preserve lands to avoid diminishing the very qualities that most Scottsdale residents wanted to retain when they voted to tax themselves to protect these lands.

City of Phoenix residents, in their long and contentious process to protect its Preserve lands, passed a measure in the 1980’s to require a public vote to approve major development on lands that its taxpayers purchased via multiple bond measures that had begun a decade earlier. Scottsdale residents deserve a similar level of review for their Preserve lands.

Scottsdale already enjoys excellent welcome center buildings at the Gateway Trailhead that are complete with a large Ramada area and interpretive signs that blend in wonderfully with the bajada-like topography of the surrounding area. Used mostly for storage and maintenance, thee buildings with some work could be repurposed into a small interpretive center and service friendly site to assist and help educate hikers and recreationists using nearby trails.

Voters should have the right to decide what is built in their Preserve and how their tax dollars are spent. Please vote yes and give Scottsdale residents a better voice in the future management of their beautiful McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

Sierra Club-Grand Canyon Chapter-Palo Verde Group  
Kathy Mohr-Almeida, Chair  
Chris Gehlker, Vice Chair

### **ARGUMENT “FOR” PROPOSITION 420**

Please vote YES and protect our McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Like many of you, I voted in favor of the Preserve taxes used to acquire and preserve this beautiful Sonoran Desert forever. Today, the Preserve is threatened by a majority on City Council favoring development over preservation. When faced with overwhelming community opposition, the City Council majority voted to deny a public vote. Again, our Scottsdale community united in support of the Preserve. In an unprecedented feat, citizens collected 37,608 Scottsdale voter signatures in support of a public vote. A YES vote means only voters--not City Council--can authorize development proposals in our Preserve. Today, tomorrow, and forever. A YES vote protects our Preserve tax dollars and protects our McDowell Sonoran Preserve – the People’s Preserve!

Solange Whitehead, City Council candidate, former Preserve Commissioner

## ARGUMENT “FOR” PROPOSITION 420

Those of us who have worked hard on creating this Preserve thought we had protected it with the Preserve Ordinance (approved in 2000), and City Charter amendment voters passed in 1998 that limited what could be done with Preserve land. However recent attempts, by special interest groups and 4 members of the city council, to put a commercial venue in the Preserve, that will violate many provisions of the Preserve Ordinance, have shown us that more protection is needed. This “project” was going to be built at the most popular trail head without citizen input much less citizen approval. Citizens formed the Preserve, citizens voted to tax themselves to raise money to buy the land, and now citizens are enjoying a 30,000 acre Preserve within their own city as a result of those efforts. It truly is “The people’s Preserve” so it is only right that the people have a voice when it comes to their Preserve.

Voting “YES” on this ballot question would simply give voters the voice they should have on what happens to their Preserve. This City Charter change will protect the Preserve, because if passed, nothing can be built in the Preserve without citizen approval and none of the Preserve funds, our tax dollars, can be used for anything other than land acquisition without citizen approval.

Putting the Preserve back in the hands of the citizens who formed it, and bought it, is the best protection we could conceive of, so this Charter Change was conceived and many volunteers worked tirelessly to get it to you, the voters.

This should be the easiest decision you will ever make, to give us a vote. It is your Preserve, it should be your decision what is done to it or on it.

Vote YES on proposition 420.

Howard Myers  
President - Protect Our Preserve

## ARGUMENT “FOR” PROPOSITION 420

Please join me in voting **YES** on Proposition 420, the citizen initiative to protect our McDowell Sonoran Preserve from commercial development. Ever since I was elected to the City Council I have always maintained that citizens should have the final say on whether or not to allow the Desert Edge, or any commercial development, to be built inside the Preserve. In fact, I am the only Councilmember who has voted 100% not to move forward with this project without the approval of the voters. This is the People’s Preserve and you voted – five times - to tax yourselves for over one billion dollars to buy the land and build the trails and trailheads. In part those votes were based on the promises made to you by the city to preserve this land in its natural state. Even building the trailheads and trails had to go to a public vote for approval before they could be built; the first public votes only allowed the City to buy the land.

Currently, our Preserve Ordinance clearly prohibits commercial development and other incompatible activities inside the Preserve. But an ordinance can be changed by a mere four votes on the City Council. To change these rules should, I believe, require a public vote as demanded by this proposed Charter Amendment. Otherwise, we not only betray the trust of our citizens, but our Preserve loses its legal protections and becomes just a large expanse of open space which could be developed at the whim of the City Council majority.

This is not just about the Desert Edge – it’s about keeping our Preserve a true Preserve, not just open space, and not just a park. It’s also about keeping the promises made to the citizens when they agreed to generously fund this unique and special Preserve.

Scottsdale City Councilwoman Kathy Littlefield

## **ARGUMENT “FOR” PROPOSITION 420**

When Scottsdale residents voted five times to tax themselves almost a billion dollars to buy the land for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve they were promised the land would be “preserved” forever. Surely commercial development would be unthinkable in a “preserve,” wouldn’t it?

Unfortunately, the previously unthinkable has come to pass. A group of special interests has proposed a commercial development, originally called the Desert Discovery Center (DDC) and now relabeled the Desert EDGE, right smack in the Gateway to our Preserve! Adding insult to injury, these special interests want taxpayers to subsidize their private commercial venture!

This proposal was so outrageous it motivated a small army of concerned Scottsdale citizens to organize an initiative petition to amend the City Charter to require a vote of the people before any commercial development can be built in the Preserve. These concerned Scottsdale citizens succeeded beyond anyone’s wildest dreams, collecting over 37,000 signatures on their petitions. This qualified their proposed Charter Amendment for the November ballot as Proposition 420.

Why is a charter amendment necessary? If you had a City Council majority that respected the Preserve and respected the will of the voters, you wouldn’t need a charter amendment to protect the Preserve from commercial development. But that is not the case. In fact, five of the current members of the City Council (excepting Kathy Littlefield and Guy Phillips) support the Desert EDGE and have voted several times in favor of it. Therefore, we need a charter amendment to safeguard the future of our Preserve.

So please join me in voting **YES** on Proposition 420. We cannot leave the fate of Scottsdale’s Preserve in the hands of four City Council members. We must pass Proposition 420 to insure only the citizens of Scottsdale, whose tax dollars paid for the Preserve, control its future.

Former Scottsdale City Councilman Bob Littlefield

## **ARGUMENT “FOR” PROPOSITION 420**

When first elected to Scottsdale City Council I was ready to stand up and defend our residents against the strong arm of government. 6 years later I felt disillusioned about how much one person could do, let alone a group of residents.

The Desert Edge aka; DDC, (Desert Discovery Center) is one of those issues. Local Leaders have been trying to build this facility on the Preserve for years, despite the large outcry from our residents. After our legal staff ruled that the council could build whatever we wanted on the Preserve without the publics’ consent, it seemed their influence would be too much to overcome.

Then when POP (Protect Our Preserve) came along and said they would file an initiative to change our Charter ensuring that the City Council couldn’t build whatever we wanted on the Preserve without a public vote, I was happy to see the energy but frankly doubted the outcome. Can residents in this day and age actually band together and get 26,000 signatures to force a ballot proposition? It seemed highly unlikely at the time. Now imagine my delight and surprise when they turned in over 38,000 signatures! Not only has this group of extraordinary individuals managed to get an overwhelming amount of signatures, but they have succeeded in reviving my hope that residents still can make a difference in their community and their city. This is unprecedented in Scottsdale history and the magnitude of their commitment can’t be overstated.

So, it is with great exuberance and zeal for me to announce that I will be more than proud to stand in line on Nov 6th and check YES to Prop 420 and I urge you to do likewise.

Let’s make History November 6th! Vote YES on Prop 420!!

Guy Phillips  
Scottsdale City Council

## **ARGUMENT “FOR” PROPOSITION 420**

DON'T BE FOOLED! Opponents of Proposition 420 seem to have two main arguments for you to vote against it, both of which are INACCURATE.

The first is that somehow the Preserve is not currently accessible to everyone; that it's only accessible to hikers, bikers, and equestrians. They claim that a \$68 MIL, 120,000 sq. ft. event center is needed to provide “more access” to the Preserve. How does standing inside a building provide more access to nature? It doesn't.

There are already ADA accessible trails from three trailheads in the Preserve. On any day you can find people walking these trails with canes; wheeling themselves along; or accompanied by an able-bodied person pushing them if necessary. You see parents with children strapped on their backs stopping to teach them about a saguaro, a cholla, or a lizard they encounter. So this idea of not being accessible to everyone is just plain false.

Their second argument is that the Proposition will unduly restrict the City from creating potential firefighting routes, flood control projects, watering holes for droughts, etc. First, the plant life and animals in the Preserve have survived droughts, floods, and fires for hundreds of years without any of these things! That's what a Preserve is supposed to be; nature in its pristine state.

If, however, some of these things are necessary Proposition 420 does not preclude them. Many of these things can currently, and will continue to be able to, be approved by the existing McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission without a public vote. If not, however, this Proposition doesn't prohibit the City from doing these things--- it simply requires the City to get approval from voters before doing so.

Proposition 420 gives citizens control over OUR Preserve.

Our Preserve! Our Money! Our Vote!

VOTE YES ON PROP 420!

Andrea M. Keck  
20+ Year Scottsdale resident

## **ARGUMENT “FOR” PROPOSITION 420**

As a Councilwoman in Scottsdale for nearly 10 years, I have been part of many discussions over those years about both buying land for the Preserve and about paths and trailheads to be added in the Preserve.

My thought has been that for a large project to be built in the Preserve, citizens would have a vote on a question on the ballot to approve or disapprove general obligation bond funding. I stated this position when I last ran for office in 2016.

The Council has been exploring a possible large educational center at the Gateway to the Preserve, now called Desert Edge, and authorized a design and business plan. The recommended plan was presented last summer. The recommendations to the Council did not include bond funding and instead the use of Preserve dedicated funds and funds collected by hotels through “bed taxes.”

Many residents have written and attended Council meetings to tell us that they do not want such a project built in the Preserve. Those citizens began about a year ago gathering signatures on petitions asking for a public vote.

I respect and applaud their wildly successful grassroots efforts for gathering over 30,000 certified valid signatures so the issue can be placed on our November 6 ballot. I support Proposition 420 because it is what a large portion of our residents want. Several years before running for Council, I worked on a grassroots effort for a ballot measure and know how difficult it is to make change. Our group's work was thwarted back then. I do not want the considerable hard work and dedication of so many Scottsdale citizens to come up short in this election.

Please join me in rewarding all the efforts involved by a Yes vote on Proposition 420.

Suzanne Klapp  
Councilwoman

### **ARGUMENT "FOR" PROPOSITION 420**

A YES vote will establish PUBLIC VOTER CONTROL of our Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve

- Today the city council in a majority vote **as low as 4 to 3** (in the opinion of the city attorney) has the authority to build a non-trail related project inside the Preserve.
- Your **YES** vote will support a permanent City Charter Amendment that will prevent this city council and future city councils from such actions without a public approval vote
- Also, your **YES** vote protects collected Preserve Funds from being spent on non-trail related construction in your Preserve. This would also require a public vote.

**YOUR LAND.....YOUR INVESTMENT.....YOUR VOTE**

**VOTE YES on proposition 420**

**Thank you! Sonnie Kirtley, longtime Scottsdale resident**

### **ARGUMENT "FOR" PROPOSITION 420**

Vote YES to give residents authority to decide the future of the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve

Several members of the current Scottsdale City Council have publicly stated that they have no obligation to honor promises and commitments made to citizens by prior council action. This arrogance demonstrates the need for a charter amendment that transfers authority to make decisions regarding the future of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve to the Scottsdale voters who created the Preserve in the first place. This will give voters the authority to decide what can or cannot be in the Preserve as well as how remaining Preserve tax dollars will be spent. It will prevent the current and future councils from developing the Preserve beyond trails and trailheads, without express voter approval, and ensure Preserve tax dollars will be used as voters intended, on land acquisition, trails and trailheads.

**This is YOUR Preserve, YOUR tax dollars, YOUR vote!**

**VOTE YES on Proposition 420**

Joanne "Copper" Phillips, Chairwoman of the COGS Political Committee

## **ARGUMENT “FOR” PROPOSITION 420**

I support Proposition 420. From early on, I have been an advocate for a public vote.

My position supporting a public vote has been clear and consistent since launching our campaign in November 2017. In fact, I was one of the signers of the petition to get this initiative on the ballot.

Scottsdale residents voted five times to tax themselves to raise money to assemble and purchase the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. It belongs to the people of Scottsdale. I strongly believe any fundamental change impacting the disposition of land set aside as a preserve for future generations should be approved by a public vote.

Now, with Proposition 420 on the November ballot, Scottsdale residents will finally have an opportunity to vote on the proposed Desert EDGE and our city can move forward.

My position has been and will always be: Scottsdale residents created and expanded the McDowell Sonoran Preserve after approving several tax increases on themselves and using those funds to purchase the land for preservation. Therefore, Scottsdale residents should have the final say.

I am voting Yes on Proposition 420 and encourage you to join me.

Bill Crawford

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

As a former member of the Scottsdale City Council, I was involved in the effort to revise the City of Scottsdale Charter. From a legal standpoint and also relative to communications with voters, the process is extremely complicated.

Those who are in favor of changes tend to analyze the proposed changes from a positive perspective while ignoring the potential for negative results. The language in a change to the Charter will be subject to extensive interpretation over a long period of time and can create consequences that will not yield the expected results.

Proposition 420 falls significantly short of meeting the near-term and long-range needs of improving the management and direction of our McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The City of Scottsdale owns the preserve, so decisions that must be made now and in the future are the responsibility of the Mayor and City Council who follow the rules and regulations in the current Charter.

Proposition 420 would move decisions made about the preserve from the City Council to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission, whose members are not elected by voters. That means commission members are not accountable to citizens. Residents and visitors' tax money used for the preserve must continue to be managed by the City Council, elected officials who are accountable to citizens.

I strongly encourage all voters to review the text of the ballot that can be obtained on the City of Scottsdale website and all the supporting and opposing arguments printed in this publicity pamphlet.

***I ENCOURAGE YOU TO VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 420.***

Wayne D. Ecton

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

Vote “no” on Proposition 420.

I love the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, and all that the Preserve means to Scottsdale residents, students, visitors and future generations.

As one who has been involved in one way or another since the establishment of the Preserve in 1994 (serving on Save Our McDowells campaigns, McDowell Sonoran Conservancy non-profit board of directors, the city’s McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission and the non-profit Desert Discovery Center Scottsdale board of directors and having written three books documenting the history of the Preserve and the ‘Preserve movement’), there is no way I would ever be in favor of spoiling what we have worked so hard to protect and celebrate. I continue, however, to support ways to make the Preserve more accessible and educational to a wider range of residents, students and visitors.

I believe enacting this charter amendment would hinder future access and educational opportunities in the Preserve, and would be unfair to those who are not hearty enough to hike or bike in the Preserve. Many of us are eager to learn more about the Sonoran Desert in a non-profit, environmentally-sensitive educational center, one that has been envisioned for many years as part and parcel of the Preserve dream and plan.

I also believe that, if enacted, this charter amendment could lead to additional initiatives to revise Scottsdale’s charter that would require a public vote in order to build in other areas of the city - like downtown, the airport area or the McDowell corridor. If that would occur, our economy and quality of life would suffer.

Let’s trust our mayor and city council – with sound advice from city staff, citizen-driven commissions and public input – to interpret Scottsdale’s existing charter, general plan and Preserve ordinance, and to make wise decisions without charter revisions.

Joan Fudala

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

### **Vote NO on Proposition 420**

As a longtime resident of and business owner in Scottsdale, here’s why I’m voting NO on Prop 420:

#### **It violates American core values.**

Prop 420 invests the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission, rather than the City Council, with authority to make decisions about Preserve lands. The people, who Prop 420 claims to support, will have no voice on this Commission as it is an unelected body.

Any city charter needs to be broadly worded so it is flexible enough to provide for changes and to endure throughout time. Prop 420 imposes detailed requirements in the Charter which limit the power of the City’s elected officials.

#### **It is a safety hazard.**

What if there are fires or microbursts that wreak natural havoc? Will the City have to hold an election before sending out the Fire Department or cleanup crews to Preserve lands in case of these disasters? Proposed Section 12 A says yes.

## **It is a litigation breeder.**

The current Charter separates automatically designated Preserve lands from those the City Council may designate. Automatically designated Preserve lands cannot be altered from their natural condition. Prop 420's proposed Section 12A provides that no designated Preserve land can be altered "from its natural state" without an election. Any resolution of this conflicting language will be at your and my expense as taxpayers.

The Commission will determine new trails in the Preserve and appropriate restoration efforts according to Prop 420's Section 12. What if the law on accessibility changes or someone challenges what is appropriate? If so, you and I will need to pay to defend the lawsuits.

The current City Charter sufficiently protects the Preserve.

Denise M. Blommel

## **ARGUMENT "AGAINST" PROPOSITION 420**

Proposition 420 is being put forward by individuals opposed to a desert discovery center at the Preserve Gateway as a means to stop the center from happening. Proponents see the proposition as necessary to "Protect Our Preserve." Both the establishing and subsequent ballot measures and the approval of restrictive Preserve regulations have provided permanent protection of the land over the years and have ensured only a narrow range of uses and activities be allowed. The Preserve today is proof of their success. Proposition 420 is unnecessary to safeguard the Preserve.

If proponents have concerns with a desert discovery center, participation in the public dialogue surrounding that topic is the appropriate course of action to follow. Proposition 420 is a misguided approach to achieve their aim. Have the unintended consequences been explored? What if the proposition restricts/prohibits important Preserve management strategies. Undoing proposition constraints will cause delay and necessitate the expenditure of public dollars to bring the matter before voters.

Prior to the 1995 sales tax vote for Preserve land purchases, the boundary of the planned Preserve was extended to include the Gateway land. This was done in response to community comments the Preserve must be accessible to everyone not just hikers, etc. By including this flat, developable land, uses/activities that serve the broader community could be provided on the periphery. A desert discovery center was planned, supported and approved by the City Council in 2007 as part of the Municipal Use Master Site Plan for the Gateway Trailhead. It was proposed to support the stewardship of the Preserve, educate residents, students and visitors about the wonders of the Sonoran Desert and tell the remarkable story of Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

Robert J. Cafarella  
Retired Scottsdale Preserve Director

## **ARGUMENT "AGAINST" PROPOSITION 420**

In May 1995, a temporary sales tax for the acquisition of preserve lands was approved by voters. The ballot direction was pure and simple – buy and preserve land.

Nine years later, voters approved a second temporary sales tax. The objective was to buy more preserve land, but also to convert the preserve into a recreational amenity with improvements built for a small number of citizens and visitors who might want to hike, bike or ride horseback in the preserve. Some voters foresaw the day when a Discovery Center might be built in the preserve to give all citizens and visitors an immersive educational experience.



With the sales tax help of citizens and visitors plus many millions of dollars from Arizona's "Growing Smarter" land protection fund, we accumulated almost 30,500 preserve acres, built 180 miles of trails throughout the preserve and constructed or planned ten trailheads. We provided human amenities of parking, restrooms and shaded ramadas, as well as amenities for horses including trailer parking, water troughs and hitching rails.

There is no more preserve acreage to buy. After paying off all the debt of land acquisition and completing of all the planned amenities for the hikers, bikers and horseback riders we expect to have more than \$100 million left in the Preserve Fund. We are at the point of now fulfilling the promised benefits for the great majority of our citizens and tourists who do not (or cannot) enjoy the preserve by hiking, biking or riding horseback.

Unfortunately, a small group of citizens have mobilized hikers, bikers and horseback riders to prevent this from happening.

**PROP 420 is not a vote to preserve.** It is a vote to prevent the great majority of our citizens and tourists from enjoying the asset they have been taxed to create.

Jane Blacker

### **ARGUMENT "AGAINST" PROPOSITION 420**

I support the McDowell Mountain Preserve; in fact, my wife and I live on it, we have a trailhead right next door to our development and we can't exit our development without driving by it. I voted for both the 1995 and 2004 sales taxes that will, eventually, raise more than one billion dollars to buy what amounts to one-quarter of the land area of Scottsdale. However, I oppose Proposition 420, and urge voters to do likewise, because (a) the measure is not needed and (b) the so-called "Findings and Declarations" in the Proposition 420 Petition are incorrect and highly misleading.

1. The McDowell Sonoran Preserve Ordinance (MSPO) applicable to the Preserve states: "The Preserve will not contain traditional facilities or improvements associated with a public park, but may contain facilities or improvements that the city determines are necessary or appropriate to support passive recreational activities." While allowing for "educational opportunities," the sale of food and beverages or "other merchandise" is prohibited.

2. The Petition for Proposition 420 states that the City Attorney has "determined" that the "can build whatever it wants in the Preserve without a public vote." A city attorney doesn't "determine" anything; an ordinance does and the MSPO is clear.

3. The Petition also states that the "City is proposing to build a "museum/event center" in the Preserve. The "City" is not proposing anything. It is considering a proposal which has been under development for twenty years by a civic group; and unless it meets the MSPO, it can't be approved. Can you imagine an "event center" that can't sell food?

In summary, Scottsdale taxpayers have committed themselves to a billion dollars of open space. The MSPO clearly states that only "passive" recreational activities" and educational uses are appropriate. No further prohibition is needed.

James Derouin  
Resident and Concerned Citizen

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

25 years ago, thousands of Scottsdale citizens came together in an open and transparent grass roots campaign to define the future vision for our city.

Those Visioning Committee meetings and public forums lasted more than a year. The final report, contained recommendations on a variety of topics, was universally heralded, endorsed and accepted. Citizen participation was at an all-time high.

As you drive around Scottsdale today, many of the recommendations have been implemented and are enjoyed by everyone. The vast acreage for the preserve was a significant part of this citizen-driven report.

Prop 420 is not good for our future, and I highly recommend a NO vote.

It violates much of what has made Scottsdale special since the creation of the Indian Bend Wash in the 1970's.

Unlike our other historic accomplishments where advocates were visible and identifiable, the majority of backers of Prop 420 are dark money contributors remaining in the shadows.

Unlike our other historic accomplishments that relied on selfless leaders and tireless volunteers, the backers of Prop 420 have resorted to paying petition circulators. To me, that smacks of special interests rather than the public good.

Unlike our other historic accomplishments with clear, definable goals and intentions, the adoption of Prop 420 is merely a tactic to obstruct.

We're all free to choose what fits our vision for Scottsdale's future.

However, I would encourage you to defeat Prop 420, so we can continue to progress with the lofty visions that have made Scottsdale one of the most livable cities in America and the envy of countless other communities.

We often referred to our Visioning Committee as our best intentions for 2020. Now, it may be our best prescription for maintaining 20-20 eyesight.

Gary Shapiro

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

VOTE NO on Proposition 420. This is not a measure to **preserve**, but rather one to **prevent** the majority of our citizens from using the Preserve for which they have taxed themselves to create.

Voters from all areas of Scottsdale voted to tax themselves in order to buy land and create the Preserve. The voters voted again to further tax themselves to create Improvements that benefit those who hike, bike and ride horses.

Proposition 420 would prevent further improvements that could benefit all Scottsdale residents. And any improvements should not be governed by a charter amendment with narrow focus.

The land for the Preserve has been purchased. There is no more acreage to buy. It is now time to fulfill the promise made to Scottsdale voters and provide benefits on the Preserve for those who do not (or cannot) enjoy the Preserve by hiking, biking or riding horseback. To do this should not require several votes of the people. They already voted.

Proposition 420 is on the ballot due to a small group of people – paid-outside interests – gathering petition signatures and anonymous donors.

The voters elected a mayor and six councilmembers to deal with issues like this. Let them do their jobs.

VOTE NO on Proposition 420 – it is bad precedent, bad policy and bad government.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Helm  
Retired General Manager Scottsdale Fashion Square

#### **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

As residents of Scottsdale whose property is adjacent to the Preserve, we have enjoyed the trails and beauty of this natural treasure. We have great admiration and respect for those who fought hard to establish and nurture the preserve and are disheartened by what we see as efforts to demean and slander those individuals as part of the effort to push for proposition 420.

As one who has spent many years in executive management, I understand how good decisions are made. One must trust the officials who are put in charge of the day-today operations of the entity. They are aware of the issues and in position, through competent staff, to effectively analyze potential actions. We elect officials to work for us. If we do not feel that they are doing a good job, we can elect other officials. However, once elected, we must trust their ability to make decisions in our interest.

Proposition 420 would put all decisions regarding the Preserve up to a public vote. Even as we consider ourselves reasonably well-informed citizens, we are not privy to all the analysis and data affecting these decisions. All too often, a public vote in today’s political environment is subject to information provided to the public by unknown sources (i.e. “dark money”) and slanted perspectives. Certainly, major issues should be on a ballot but in our opinion, not every operating decision.

As educators, we see the Preserve as not only an opportunity to enjoy our wonderful desert but to also use it as an educational tool for current and future generations. We have no objection to putting a major decision, such as Desert Edge, on the ballot but we believe that proposition 420 goes too far by requiring all decisions affecting the Preserve to be put to a public vote.

Enid and Michael Seiden

#### **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

The following statement is my personal opinion and not a Political statement. As a private citizen it is important to me to oppose Prop 420. I feel this way because of a concern that the City’s future will be affected. I feel that we need to leave these decisions in the capable hands of the elected officials. Therefore, future projects for the City will not necessitate going to go the voters for approval. As citizens of Scottsdale we elect our city council to make decisions on policy such as Preserve enhancements. It is inefficient and costly to take these project decisions to the voters. The city charter is our constitution and politics should not influence any changes to the Charter.

As a resident of McDowell Mountain Ranch Community, I support the enhancement of the preserve. I feel that it will improve the existing cachet of the Community and the City of Scottsdale.

I encourage the voters to vote **NO** on Prop 420

Dale Fingersh

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

### **Proposition 420 is the epitome of poor policy.**

The proposition is a by-product of a political movement started by a self-interest group. They want to change the City Charter to limit who can use our McDowell Sonoran Preserve and control what is done within the boundaries of its more than 30,000 acres.

Scottsdale’s charter serves as our constitution. It should be free of political agendas. Allowing what is no more than a “political” amendment is not good government. Letting politics impact the charter would set a dangerous precedent not only for everyone today, but for future generations who would be forced to live with a decision that would be almost impossible to reverse.

### **Proposition 420 has many shortcomings – including a series of unintended consequences that threaten our quality of life and the best management practices now in place which protect our Mountain Preserve and desert wildlife.**

The proposition puts the City of Scottsdale in a straightjacket. The preserve tax could not be used to fund restoration of the Mountain Preserve following massive flooding, a horrific wildfire or other unforeseen catastrophes. To do anything in our preserve beyond maintaining existing trailheads or developing new ones already identified, would have to be approved by voters in an expensive election every time.

**In addition, the political group who initiated Proposition 420 spent tens of thousands of dollars from anonymous donors to place it on the ballot. They want the future needs and sustainability of the Mountain Preserve to be managed by an unaccountable citizens’ group – which the special interests would like to control.**

I helped start our McDowell Sonoran Preserve decades ago and worked on all 5 campaigns. Now I ask you to join me in protecting our Mountain Preserve from poor policy by voting **NO on Proposition 420**.

Virginia L. Korte

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

### **PROPOSITION 420 IS WRONG FOR SCOTTSDALE–VOTE NO**

- **420 GRANTS POWER TO AN APPOINTED BOARD AND THE LANGUAGE IS OVERLY BROAD**

The stated purpose is to take control of your Preserve from your elected officials. In doing so, it gives power to an appointed Board that is not accountable to you. Decisions regarding the Preserve, including the expenditure of your taxes, should remain with your elected officials.

The language is broad, open to debate/interpretation and could lead to unintended consequences. One example; will the control of flood plains and waters in the Preserve require voter approval? The answer lies in the interpretation of text that states, “The proposition would amend the city charter to prohibit the alteration of the natural state of the preserve...”. The potential for flooding in the Preserve is real and this language **PUTS PRIVATE PROPERTY AT RISK**.

- **420 IS NOT NEEDED**

The current City Charter, the City’s Constitution, is clear, straight forward and direct regarding the Preserve, its ownership by the City, use of your tax dollars, responsible management of the land and approved uses.

- **420 ADDS GOVERNMENT LAWS OPEN TO COSTLY LEGAL INTERPRETATION**

Confusing language in the Charter results in costly legal debates on the intended meaning as well as other unintended costs.

I have long supported the Preserve. I support the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy. I appreciate the natural wonder of the Sonoran Desert. I support limited uses in the Preserve. **BUT, PROPOSITION 420 DOESN'T GUARANTEE LIMITED USES. 420 SIMPLY ADDS UNNECESSARY AND COSTLY GOVERNMENT LAWS. WE DON'T NEED MORE GOVERNMENT REGULATION.**

#### **VOTE NO ON 420**

Janet (Jan) Dolan  
Scottsdale City Manager 2000-2008  
Scottsdale Resident

#### **ARGUMENT "AGAINST" PROPOSITION 420**

It seems wrong to cheat those of us who have worked for and paid on the McDowell Sonoran Preserve these past 25 years, out of the Southwest Desert learning facility, or today, "The Edge".

This facility was one of the two original elements for doing this project, back in the early 1990's. Land preservation and learning about our Sonoran Desert Lands, was our goal.

Only a small percent of Scottsdale's Citizens can hike the trails, but we all can learn to love and enjoy our Native Lands.

Vote **NO** on Proposition 420

Paul Messinger

#### **ARGUMENT "AGAINST" PROPOSITION 420**

Scottsdale Community College had the pleasure of hosting Scottsdale Forward, an annual program presented by the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce.

One of the most provocative questions during the panel discussion was "Should Scottsdale move forward with a Desert Discovery Center?" The response was a resounding "yes," with 2:1 support. I couldn't agree more. SCC has hosted several Desert Discovery Center Scottsdale events and I have been so impressed with the group's leadership, all of whom have deep ties to Scottsdale and to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, and with its vision. As a community college, we have interest in the Desert Discovery Center for many reasons, foremost of which is education.

The collaborative nature of the Desert Discovery Center effort has included SCC, along with professors at Paradise Valley Community College and representatives from several local native and animal rescue organizations. We are enthusiastically supporting this effort and believe the Desert Discovery Center will bring a new, intensified focus on the issues and opportunities of living in a desert environment. When we work together, everyone wins – especially our kids.

I'm proud to have followed in the footsteps of my predecessor, Dr. Art DeCabooter, who was one of the founders of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and who has been involved with the Desert Discovery Center since its inception as part of the Preserve three decades ago. He believes, as do I, that there's nothing more important than teaching the next generation about stewardship and conservation and that can only happen when we share our love of the desert on an up-close and personal level. That's exactly the mission of the Desert Discovery Center and we at Scottsdale Community College simply could not be more excited or supportive.

#### **Vote NO on Prop 420**

Jan L. Gehler, Ed.D.  
President, Scottsdale Community College (Retired)

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

When my brother, Herb Drinkwater, was mayor of Scottsdale he initiated the McDowell Sonoran Preserve with its passive recreation and educational amenities. I am proud to support the Desert Edge and carry on this legacy. As a runner, hiker, and North Scottsdale resident I am committed to ensuring that the Preserve is accessible to all Scottsdale residents and visitors – not just those who use it for fitness and recreation.

Having taught in Scottsdale for thirty-four years, I appreciate the rich curriculum of the STEM in the Desert Workshop I attended last summer. The course was developed specifically for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and addressed directly how student’s efforts would impact local environment. The key issue for me was “sustainability” and focused on how the future generations will not only care for the Preserve but live in a desert environment as arid climates expand around the world. As Scottsdale residents I hope we will look to the future to protect both the physical and educational components of our desert.

Proposition 420 will inhibit the City’s ability to provide access to the Preserve for all – and will diminish its ability to properly manage the land. Please vote no.

Lois Drinkwater Thompson  
Retired Teacher, Chaparral High School

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

Last summer I participated in the STEM in the Desert Workshop for educators taught primarily at Scottsdale Community College. It included a field trip to the Gateway to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Scottsdale has acquired an unparalleled piece of the Sonoran desert and created multiuse trails. The remaining piece is the creation of the Desert Discovery Center, now called the Desert Edge, a world-class educational center.

I was born in Arizona and spent my life hiking, camping and hunting in the desert. Until I took this excellent class I erroneously thought I understood the desert and the relationship between the desert and urban areas. Everyone in Arizona will benefit from the education component of EDGE, not just students and teachers. Look carefully at the EDGE architecture. The structure folds seamlessly into the landscape and creates a showpiece for all of Scottsdale. I am excited to see it built.

I thank the DDCS who sponsored the STEM in the Desert Workshop and the powerful partnership between the Desert EDGE (Desert Discovery Center), Central Arizona-Phoenix CAP LTER, Scottsdale Community College, and the ASU Global Institute of Sustainability for great instructors and creating excellent lessons and programs for students and teachers. I was happy to see it was presented again this year to a filled class.

Dozens of educators and even stewards attended this valuable workshop. I hope this nature education center can be built and that all teachers will have access to desert education classes like this to sensitize our children to this fragile, delicate, sometimes scary landscape we are now stewards to.

Proposition 420 will unnecessarily hinder the community’s ability to learn from the Sonoran Desert – as the founders of the Preserve always intended.

Please vote no.

Nancy Chaney  
Retired Teacher (Scottsdale High School & Chaparral High School)  
Adjunct Professor Paradise Valley Community College

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

Let’s be honest. Proposition 420 isn’t about protecting the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. It’s about stifling the educational, research, business, and yes, tourism, opportunities the proposed Desert Edge would bring to Scottsdale. It’s about people who live next to the preserve zealously trying to keep others out.

In a 30,580-acre preserve, this educational center would be tucked into five acres, or less space than the four parking lots already within preserve boundaries. It will not mar the beauty and peacefulness of this treasure.

But it will give ASU scientists a home from which to research the plants and wildlife of the preserve, adding knowledge that will help us better protect them.

It will give school kids a place for hands-on learning about the desert that is their home. Maybe the opponents don’t like sharing roads with the occasional school bus.

And it will give visitors from around the world, who too often think all deserts are alike, a place to learn about our desert. Maybe they’ll be inspired to hike the trails, experience nature, and go home with a new appreciation of what a special, amazingly green place the Sonoran Desert is.

Why would anyone want to stop that? Well, if you live next to the preserve, it’s a really nice private backyard. I can understand why neighbors might not want to share it with others. But anyone who has ever shopped in Scottsdale helped pay for the preserve. We all own a piece of it, and we all should be able to enjoy it, whether by hiking the trails or visiting a modest, state-of-the-art educational facility.

Prop 420 is the equivalent of a “keep out” sign. Vote no, and keep the preserve open to all.

*-- Mark j Hiegel*

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

The City Council adopted Chapter 21, the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Ordinance in May 2000 to establish the guidelines and management objectives for the Preserve and established the McDowell Preserve Commission to facilitate this management

Under the management by the Council the Preserve has grown to 30,600 acres with a trail system of 180 miles supported by 10 trail heads. It has created a scientific research and trail maintenance/ restoration program, and youth education program with the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy.

The City Council is elected by Scottsdale citizens. The citizens have their voice in the management of the Preserve through the Council and Preserve Commission. The success of the Preserve indicates that this system of governing works.

Proposition 420 is on the ballot because of a citizen’s petition. For those who signed the petition, you bought into the rhetoric and scare tactics about commercial development in the Preserve. This is simply false.

Proposition 420 proposes a change in the City of Scottsdale’s Charter (Constitution) with two amendments that will radically change the management of the Preserve. To require a public vote for any infrastructure changes is bad policy and very costly to you, the taxpayer (\$500,000 per public vote).

Vote NO on Proposition 420.

Joy L. Englehorn

Con A. Englehorn

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

The McDowell Sonoran Preserve is Scottsdale’s unique gift to the world, an unmatched model for urban preservation and a celebration of the Sonoran Desert. The story of the Preserve needs to be told because many, including newcomers to Scottsdale, know nothing about it. It was created to be shared with future generations and with everyone who comes to experience the magnificent mountains and walk out into the splendid desert. The Preserve vision always included a nature education center for visitors to deepen their knowledge and appreciation of the McDowells and surrounding desert and to be inspired to cherish and protect them. To limit access to the “People’s Preserve,” which is the intent of the proposed Charter Amendment in Proposition 420, is contrary to the original vision of the Preserve.

Scottsdale residents should vote NO on Proposition 420 and say NO decisively to those who want to restrict future access to the Preserve. The Preserve was intended to be enjoyed by the whole community and not just by the hikers, bikers, equestrians, primarily those who live in proximity to the Preserve, who are currently using it. It is after all the People’s Preserve, not just some of the people but all of the people, including those who want to learn more about the desert and not just hike or bike in it.

The City Council approved the initial site plan for the Gateway area, which included a nature education center in 2007, with the support of Scottsdale citizens. This action recognized the longstanding community desire for such a center. Surrounding neighbors should not be able to shut out the rest of the community by overturning this approval as would be the case if Proposition 420 is approved. Vote NO to preserve your right of access to the Preserve.

Lynne Lagarde

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

Vote NO on Proposition 420. For years, my family and I have enjoyed the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. This desert park is truly one of the amenities that make Scottsdale a wonderful place to live.

A responsible, well-planned nature education center would be an excellent addition to the Preserve. Not only would this serve as another attraction for Scottsdale residents and tourists alike, this center would also make this corner of our magnificent Sonoran Desert accessible to small children, seniors and others who may otherwise not be able to hike the park’s rocky trails.

Prop 420 would handcuff the City of Scottsdale from being able to make future improvements to the Preserve. Any projects to meet the needs of Scottsdale citizens would require a public election, creating needless delays and added cost for taxpayers. This is unnecessary red tape.

The McDowell Sonoran Preserve belongs to all Scottsdale residents. Vote NO on Prop 420 to ensure the Preserve remains a place we can all enjoy for generations to come.

Matthew Benson

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

We encourage you to vote NO on Proposition 420. It is absolutely the wrong solution. The original No DDC folks did not want the proposed Desert Discover Center (Now EDGE) project constructed near the Gateway Trailhead. They mounted a major campaign using social media to generate hysteria. Our opposition to this measure has nothing to do with whether or not we support the DDC project. It’s just the wrong solution. It’s like hitting a fly that’s landed on your apple pie with a sledge hammer. Changing the City Charter should not be taken lightly nor used to solve one simple problem.



Petition solicitors were asking people to sign a petition to “Prevent commercial development in the Preserve”. Maybe that’s why you signed. The proposed DDC project is not a commercial development. It would be like a library or museum – a city facility, not a commercial facility at all. You were and are being misled. If opposing the DDC is your objective, simply flood the city council with your concerns. They do respond to citizen input.

Prop 420 is on the ballot thanks to the anonymous financial backing of parties who want to influence your vote. More than eighty percent of the money raised by the political action committees formed to gather petition signatures was from anonymous donors (so called “Dark Money”). That money was used to hire dozens of petition circulators to gather signatures against an issue for which they had little or no knowledge.

Please vote NO on Prop 420 and make a statement that Scottsdale voters will not be influenced by dark money!

Bob & Judy Frost

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

As a long time Scottsdale resident, I have a deep appreciation for the Sonoran Desert. I believe the proposed amendment threatens the City’s ability to responsibly manage the Preserve we love. I will be voting no.

Both sides of the debate passionately love and cherish the Preserve. I trust that voters will get past the sound bites, read the complete text and decide what is best.

While this amendment may sound reasonable, it has far reaching, unintended consequences. If needed, the City would be stalled and could not add emergency access for fire fighters, divert flood waters to protect lives and property, or add watering holes to protect wildlife.

The City could not address invasive plants that threaten native species. We could not expand trailheads, or add new ones, beyond the current plans, to handle additional visitors.

The proposed amendment intends to limit commercial development that no one is suggesting. The proposed educational center is no more commercial than a museum or library.

Today, the educational center idea is on hold. At my suggestion, City Council agreed to wait so citizens could bring forward their ballot initiative. If/when we do move forward, we agreed to consider alternative locations and phasing or downsizing the project.

I respect the citizens’ right to bring forward an initiative and commend their effort.

Additionally, I respect the citizens who have advanced the idea of an educational center, in many forms, over the last 25 years through numerous task forces, committees, the Preserve Commission, and City Council meetings.

I respect the tourism community’s recommendation to consider an important amenity and the use of restricted tourism funds to build it.

The proposed Charter amendment goes beyond the question of an educational center and restricts our ability to protect our Preserve and manage it responsibly.

Linda Milhaven  
Scottsdale City Councilwoman

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

**Vote NO on Prop 420.** The charter amendment proposal was born out of a concern for a long-planned nature education center at the Gateway to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The nature education center and its proposed uses were planned, supported and approved by the City Council in 2007 as part of the Municipal Use Master Site Plan for the Gateway Trailhead. The nature education center was proposed to support the stewardship of the Preserve, educate about the wonders of the Sonoran Desert and celebrate Scottsdale citizens' vision to preserve this land.

I know this because I have been actively involved in the Preserve efforts since the beginning – advocating for all public votes that protected this land, served for over 10 years as Chair of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission, and was involved in the planning for the nature education center.

Unfortunately Prop 420 is not about protecting the preserve lands. By requiring all infrastructure enhancements in the Preserve to be approved by a public vote, the proposition would essentially put the city in a straightjacket. Simple acts as the restoration of the Preserve following a flood or wildfire would have to be approved by voters in an expensive election.

Besides handcuffing the city council, elected to represent Scottsdale residents, Prop 420 empowers an unelected and unaccountable McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission to make and mediate decisions about the future of the Preserve.

Proposition 420 is simply bad policy and does not belong in our Charter, which is our “constitution.” Amendments to our Charter should be taken seriously and anticipate the future needs of our community. Politics should not influence changes to the Charter of Scottsdale.

**Vote NO on Proposition 420.**

Art DeCabooter

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

Dear Mayor, City Council and City Manager,

I wish to speak against this ballot measure and in favor of proceeding with planning for the Desert EDGE/DDC.

The people of Scottsdale established one of the finest urban natural areas in the nation at the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Many dedicated nature enthusiasts visit there regularly to use and enjoy it, and to develop a deeper appreciation of this unique Sonoran Desert ecosystem. But many more people are not comfortable going to a large natural area on their own, and the need instructional assistance to help them understand and appreciate what they are seeing. The goal of the Desert EDGE/DDC has always been to create opportunities for more people to learn about this important ecosystem, to develop a greater appreciation for it, and to inspire more people to protect it.

That's why I joined the Advisory Board of Desert Edge. I served as president of the National Audubon Society for 15 years. During that time, Audubon established over 40 Audubon Nature Centers at Audubon Sanctuaries across the country. The purpose of these nature centers was to help more people understand and enjoy natural areas, and to inspire them to protect our environment. I envision the Desert EDGE/DDC serving a similar purpose. People protect what they love, and love what they understand. Most people need help understanding the desert, the kind of help the Desert EDGE/DDC could provide. I would urge planning to continue.

Sincerely,

John Flicker

## ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420

In 1995 Scottsdale citizens voted to levy a sales tax to purchase the McDowell Sonoran Preserves. Twenty-three years later the Preserve constitutes over 30,000 acres that were bought for over \$1 billion in sales tax revenue. However, well over half of residents have never visited the Preserve to see what they paid for. Residents who live in the north now want to limit access to the Preserve with Proposition 420. Stopping the Desert EDGE education center is their rallying cry for Prop 420 but POP’s and No DDC’s motive is to keep the Preserve ONLY for those who live nearby.

Visiting any of the ten existing trailheads is magical but if you are not a serious hiker or mountain biker (in good physical condition) the euphoria is short lived. The trailheads are a great jumping off station but there is little there to keep you engaged. Scottsdale parents, grandparents’, children and visitors should have a place that family and friends can experience the Preserve on multiple stages: all ages can participate and be educated about the desert, its wonders and impact on a person’s life.

The Preserve stories that can be told are numerous and intensifying. ASU Global Drylands Center, which could be located at the Desert EDGE, offers the visiting public a chance to interact and participate with Preserve scientific research.

Keep the Preserve open for all to come to experience its beauty and wonders. Please VOTE NO on Prop 420. Thank you.

Bill Peifer  
Building Art LLC, Principal

## ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420

Vote No on Proposition 420

In May 1995, a temporary sales tax for the acquisition of preserve lands was approved by voters. The ballot language was clear and simple – buy and preserve land.

Nine years later, in May 2004, voters approved a second temporary sales tax. The objective was again to buy more preserve land, but also to utilize some of the funds to create public access to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve for passive recreational and educational purposes.

The City Charter, the City’s Constitution, is clear regarding the Preserve, its ownership by the City, responsible management of the land and approved uses. The Preserve Ordinance further protects the McDowell Sonoran Preserve by defining the management objectives, the purposes and allowable uses of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The McDowell Sonoran Preserve is protected forever.

Further encumbering the management of the Preserve does not provide “protection” the proponents of this initiative seek. **Proposition 420 hinders the City’s ability to manage the Preserve responsibly and in keeping with its stated purpose, objectives and approved uses.**

**Please vote NO.**

Melinda Gulick

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

Let’s cut to the chase – Proposition 420 is another no-fun, no-vision initiative brought to you by NIMBYs and well-meaning, but overly-fervent, Preserve activists.

This latest manifestation of the curmudgeon crowd is simply about Desert EDGE and making sure it never gets built – sorry, school kids, no educational field trips for you!

And typical of this kind of initiative, it comes replete with misleading talking points, litigation, anonymous money, angry and disruptive council hearings, assaults and boycotts on businesses that support the project, and persistent and disparaging ad hominem attacks on the very people who helped give life to the Preserve in the first place. Even Arizona State University and Scottsdale Community College have been condemned for their support.

The Desert EDGE “resistance” would have you believe that developing a nature discovery center on a fraction of 1% of the Preserve forecasts disaster for the City and its taxpayers and will reduce our desert to a sea of stucco apartments and habitat-trampling tourists... rubbish!

Desert EDGE is a leading-EDGE project and exactly the kind of non-commercial development that keeps Scottsdale attractive, creative, unique, and inclusive.

Please join me in resisting the resistance by voting NO on Proposition 420!

Geoff Beer

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

I am an avid outdoorsman by nature and a city dweller by reluctant choice.

Either professionally or as a volunteer, I have worked with organizations that advocate for wild areas, such as The Nature Conservancy, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Arizona Elk Society and the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy. Given my background, it may seem strange that I wholeheartedly support the development of the Desert EDGE project but I have taken the time to educate myself on this important issue.

After closely examining the project architecture and design elements, I’m convinced Desert EDGE will operate inside a small footprint, while delivering an enormously positive impact for Scottsdale residents and the world at large. My company created a video featuring the lead architect and experience designer, who discuss several benefits for including this education center at the Preserve location. <https://vimeo.com/229648006>

Hiking the McDowell Sonoran Preserve for years, I’ve introduced many people – residents and visitors – to the splendor of the untamed Sonoran Desert that stretches beyond the Gateway Trailhead. Each visit brings a unique experience and I always crave a better understanding of the unique flora, fauna and equally impressive geologic formations that exist in the Preserve. An education center will make every visitor’s understanding of that natural beauty more complete.

Scottsdale residents were wise to set aside this land for a Preserve nearly three decades ago. In order for all of us to continue being good stewards of the Preserve, it’s critical that our understanding of its rich biodiversity continues to grow. An educated public will always provide the best guiding hand for important public matters. I believe that those who invest the time to truly understand the scope of the project will also side with education and Desert EDGE. Please vote NO on Proposition 420.

David Routt

## ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420

I am a concerned Scottsdale Citizen against Prop 420. I am a proponent for Scottsdale. Citizens who enjoy living here in a beautiful advancing city will vote NO on Prop 420.

Those bringing the proposal to change the city’s charter, POP, engaged in a petition campaign that was executed in a hostile political environment that its affiliate, No DDC, created by design. Using intimidation, No DDC, the movement’s political militia, has politicized POP’s effort to change the city’s charter. I was personally lied to about what they were trying to achieve and what they were working against when they were collecting signatures to get this proposition on the ballot. Our great city was not built on lies.

The McDowell Sonoran Preserve is being used as a vehicle for a group engaged in guerilla warfare. Their crude tactics have tainted the initiative process and are now threatening the city’s charter.

If their proposal passes, it would essentially put the city in a straightjacket. To do anything in the Preserve beyond repairing and maintaining existing trailheads or developing new ones already identified, would have to be approved by voters in an expensive election.

Furthermore, they are trying to stop the creation of a nature education center that the proposed uses were planned, supported and approved by the City Council in 2007 as part of the Municipal Use Master Site Plan for the Gateway Trailhead. A nature education center was proposed to support the stewardship of the Preserve, educate residents, students and visitors about the wonders of the Sonoran Desert and tell the remarkable Scottsdale story of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

Renee Wittrock

## ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420

Vote No! Years ago we voted to tax ourselves in order to preserve the McDowell Mountains. At that time it was important that we were able to access the Preserve and appreciate the land we had saved from development. Today we face another danger, limiting our ability to build better facilities for Scottsdale citizens to enjoy their Preserve. We agreed years ago that the Preserve trailheads and interpretive areas needed to be enhanced, upgraded, and remodeled when necessary to give the Preserve visitors the best possible experience. It is important that we continue to manage the Preserve with the support of the ALL the citizens of Scottsdale. Vote No.

Oliver Smith  
Corporate Officer President  
Oliver Smith Jeweler

## ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420

PROP 420 is offered by its supporters as a vote to **“prohibit the alteration of the natural state of preserve lands.”** It would be more honest if the ballot read, **“to prohibit further alteration...”**

In May 1995, a temporary sales tax for the acquisition of preserve lands was approved by voters. The ballot direction was pure and simple – buy and preserve land.

Nine years later, in May 2004, voters approved a second temporary sales tax. The objective was to buy more preserve land, but also to convert the preserve into a recreational amenity with improvements for a small number of citizens and visitors who might want to hike, bike or ride horseback in the preserve.

With the sales tax help of citizens and visitors, plus many millions of dollars from Arizona's "Growing Smarter" land protection fund, we accumulated almost 30,500 preserve acres, built 180 miles of trails throughout the preserve and constructed or planned ten trailheads. We provided human amenities of parking, restrooms and shaded ramadas, as well as amenities for horses including trailer parking, water troughs and hitching rails.

Voters should not be misled!

PROP 420 is not about protecting the natural state of preserve lands: that horse (no pun intended!) already left the barn.

PROP 420 was engineered by a small group of citizens who mobilized hikers, bikers and horseback riders (as well as a number of neighbors near the preserve) to prevent the great majority of Scottsdale citizens and tourists from being able to enjoy the asset they have been taxed to create.

***A vote for PROP 420 is not a vote to preserve.*** The only thing it preserves and protects are the rights of today's hikers, bikers and horseback riders.

Anna Mineer

## **ARGUMENT "AGAINST" PROPOSITION 420**

Please join me in voting NO on Ballot Prop 420. Although it sounds sensible – it does not recognize and honor the long history of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

As a teenager, I became involved with the McDowell Sonoran Land Trust – long before there was a McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Preserving the McDowell Mountains AND educating people as to the natural wonders that we have in our own "backyard" became my biggest goal. At age 13, I was invited to the board of directors for the Land Trust due to my relentless efforts to preserve the land and educate others about the Sonoran Desert.

With hundreds of other volunteers, we worked with the mayor and city council to ask the citizens of Scottsdale to impose a sales tax to purchase those precious lands – so even visitors would pay a large portion of the money needed (over a billion dollars!).

Five successful votes were held including one that would allow for not only the trailheads, signage, parking lots, fences, amphitheaters, handicapped accessible hiking trails, Equestrian staging – but also the decades-long plans for a nature education center. A nature education center was one of the core concepts behind creating the preserve, educating people on the value and importance of the desert.

One of my favorite quotes says: "Through education comes understanding. Through understanding comes true appreciation." Without understanding the land, it will be taken for granted.

When I returned to the valley as an educator myself, I was thrilled to learn of the progress being made for a Desert Discovery Center. This ballot proposition would prevent having a center built – one that would let all of us – our citizens, our children, our students, and visitors learn about this special precious space. I hope you'll join me in voting NO on Proposition 420.

Kristen Jaskie

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

I understand the motives behind amending our City Charter. But I am deeply concerned about the ramifications if voters approve Proposition 420.

I believe we all appreciate that when we elect people to our City Council, councilmembers will make some decisions with which we do not always agree. That is simply the nature of our democracy.

What worries me most is that Proposition 420 threatens to set a potentially destructive precedent about how city government functions: The possibility that every time enough voters don't agree with our City Council there is a rush to change the Scottsdale City Charter.

If we don't like the decisions our council makes, we should change its members, not the City Charter. That is how democracy works best.

Proposition 420 undermines the authority of the City Council by placing the decision making about the McDowell Sonoran Preserve in the hands of an “unelected” commission. At the core of our democracy lies the concept of keeping government at all levels accountable to the people. Proposition 420 proposes to allow volunteers who are not accountable to anyone make critical decisions about our precious Mountain Preserve.

That creates a risk not worth taking.

Clearly, emotions are running high around this issue. So I hope when you exercise your vote this fall you will use common sense and consider what is truly best for Scottsdale and the sustainability of our McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

**Please vote NO on Proposition 420.**

Denny Brown

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

“Unintended Consequences”

We truly all treasure our McDowell Mountain Preserve. As a nearly lifelong resident of Scottsdale I have participated in the process of protecting the preserve and will continue to do so.

Having said that however, I strongly urge my fellow citizens to vote NO on Prop 420. Please take the time and actually read the Proposition. It contains language that will drastically change our fiduciary responsibility to the Preserve and the generations to come that will enjoy it.

Amending a City Charter should be a well thought out process with ample discussion throughout the city. As written, Prop 420 would have the surely unintended consequence of eliminating use of the preserve tax to fund the restoration of the Preserve following a flood, a wildfire or any other unforeseen catastrophe. To do anything in the Preserve beyond repairing and maintaining existing trailheads or developing new ones already identified, would have to be approved by voters in an expensive election. The cost to taxpayers for one publicly held special election is \$500,000.

I happen to be in favor of some sort of Desert Education Center. I have spent many hours at the Sonoran Desert Museum outside Tucson. The desert surrounding it remains beautiful. Certainly cooler heads can work together toward something that will serve the highest and best use of our Preserve.

Let us not enter into a change of the City Charter (essentially our Constitution) unadvisedly or due to political differences. Rather let us be mindful of the unintended consequences of our actions and work together toward a more reasoned resolution.

Paula Sturgeon Mortensen

#### **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

Proposition 420 is bad for the Preserve, bad for land management practices, bad for the City of Scottsdale, and bad for the citizens. Read the language carefully. The ability to responsively and effectively care for and management over 30,550 acres of Preserve land (not a park) will be taken away. Nothing can be done to immediately respond to emergency needs of the Preserve. Fires cannot be fought because firefighters will have to alter the natural state of the land to access a fire – no time to wait for the city to hold an election. During periods of severe drought water basins cannot be added to aid the animals because it will alter the natural state of the land. Important research needed that involves the use of instruments or soil samples cannot occur because it would alter the natural state of the land. We are ALL opposed to commercial in the Preserve, it's not allowed now and never should be. The current layers of protections already in place prohibit commercial in the Preserve. There is more to taking care of a Preserve than just trails and trailheads. Think about your vote, this language does more harm than good.

Christine Kovach

#### **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

The charter amendment proposal was born out of a concern for a long-planned nature education center at the Gateway to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The nature education center and its proposed uses were planned, supported and approved by the City Council in 2007 as part of the Municipal Use Master Site Plan for the Gateway Trailhead. A nature education center was proposed to support the stewardship of the Preserve, educate residents, students and visitors about the wonders of the Sonoran Desert and tell the remarkable Scottsdale story of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. It is important to create a preserve that is usable by all people in a way that is enjoyable to them as well as beneficial to all residents. This is also a chance for the city to create something that no other city, state or country in the world can create so we should support the center and its proposed focus. Please vote no on Proposition 420.

Michael D. Miller

#### **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

I was recruited to the Board of Directors of the Desert Discovery Center Scottsdale and considered it carefully before accepting. As a 45-year Scottsdale resident and the CEO and Co-Founder of one of Arizona's largest public companies, I made certain it was skillfully administered, the mission was true, and it was an investment of my time in a long-planned important amenity for Scottsdale.

I traveled to New York to meet with the experience planners, read and appreciated the professional business plan, and was quite dazzled by the sensitive desert architecture tucked into less than 6 acres at the Gateway to the Preserve near where I live.

It's understandable to have varying opinions on major community endeavors, but to have an effective community dialog those opinions need to be based on facts. It's important to correct misinformation and misperceptions about the DDC. The facts:



- the DDC will be owned by the City of Scottsdale and run by a nonprofit operator under contract with the City. It will be a municipal use, not a commercial enterprise or development run by a for-profit company.
- the DDC concept has been part of Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve vision from the beginning. Even before the Preserve was a reality, early planners envisioned an interpretive center to educate residents and visitors about the Sonoran Desert.
- the DDC at the Gateway – with significant distance from both homes and from the mountain slopes – was in place well before the purchase of the land by Toll Brothers and before homes and businesses were built nearby.
- DDC was approved by the Scottsdale City Council through a public process in 2007 as a municipal use facility at the Gateway.

More dialogue about this project is important – approving the ballot language stops any further conversation. I urge you to vote “No.”

Steven J. Hilton  
Chairman & CEO  
Meritage Homes

#### **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

I have been involved in the Tourism industry in Scottsdale for over 30 years. I served on the Tourism Development Committee for 6 years and several times over that time period the Committee unanimously supported the Desert Discover Center at the Gateway, as has always been a planned part of the Preserve. I have also served as Chairman and Vice Chairman of Experience Scottsdale (formerly Scottsdale Convention and Visitors Bureau) for the past 10 years. Experience Scottsdale has been an ardent supporter of the DDC, making this project one of its 3 most important pillars.

The DDC/EDGE will be a place to educate and inspire residents and visitors to value, thrive in, and conserve desert environments in Scottsdale, the Sonoran Desert and around the world. Scottsdale Residents and visitors should have an opportunity to learn about the desert even if they didn't pack hiking boots or aren't willing or able to explore on their own. Supporting tourism is one of the management objectives of the Preserve and the DDC will help accomplish that.

The intent is that after-hour programs will be contained within the footprint of the DDC and that Preserve trails will remain closed sunset to sunrise. Expected ancillary visitor services such as a retail function and cafe will have an educational focus and be there to augment the visitor experience.

The fact is that there is no center anywhere focused on research and education about how people in an urbanizing world can live sustainably in desert environments. Through the Preserve and the DDC, Scottsdale can establish itself as a global leader in conservation policy, research and education – something befitting Scottsdale's history and a legacy for the future.

*I suggest you vote NO on the ballot #420 and let the community move forward with the DDC.*

Michael Surguine

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

When the leadership of the Desert Discovery Center Scottsdale approached me to ask if students at my school, University of Advancing Technology, could become involved with their project, I was intrigued. The Desert Discovery Center team knew of the community work that UAT does and shared the vision and mission of the Center with me – and subsequently with our students – and we agreed to make a short video for their use. In preparation, my students and I did our research. We visited the Gateway site and listened as the planners explained to us their vision for an educational center that will help families and children to more fully see the life and cycles of nature occurring day and night across all the seasons within the Preserve. As we prepared the video, we researched the history of how the Preserve came to be and how the Desert Discovery Center was, from the beginning, a key part of that vision.

Having lived and been active part the Valley (East Valley in particular) for decades, I have seen time and again how our lives, our children lives and the lives of future residents are simply better when we invest in what makes Arizona truly special. My work has always been in building a strong and vibrant Arizona STEM workforce. I know that companies want and need generations worth of people with skills and talent. I also know that talented families have an increasing appetite to connect within the environments they call home. The Scottsdale leaders and community members who approved this Preserve and Desert Discovery Center as a hub for access, learning and family space saw this truth clearly. I see no benefit in rehashing a wisely made decision whose results will more than pay for itself for generations.

Dr. Dave Bolman, Provost of UAT

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

More than two decades ago, a grassroots group of citizens envisioned the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. And I had the privilege of creating the initial communications materials. As the vision for the Preserve was coming together, two things were clear: 1) we were saving this natural treasure from future commercial and residential development and 2) we were also ensuring the Preserve would include appropriate access. We would be building in the Preserve – hiking, biking and equestrian trails (which many, including myself, enjoy today) AND an educational center so we could learn about this unique – and sometimes strange! – environment.

Today, as our planet is becoming hotter and drier, that educational mission is more important than ever – our Preserve has much to teach the world! And, 20 years later, this mission has become even more personal. I have an adult daughter with special needs and an elderly mother. They cannot accompany me, my husband or my other two daughters on a hike. The education center that has always been part of the original vision is the way they, along with many of our neighbors and visitors, can experience the Preserve.

Too many times, I've talked with good-hearted people who've been misled to believe that to “build” in the Preserve means a Wal-Mart, gas station or tract home development. That would be commercial and residential development and, of course, should not be allowed. But we have built in the Preserve – appropriately. The trails you hike on, the restrooms you use, the kiosks you read – that is building in the Preserve. And the planned education center – that is building in the Preserve. And that – appropriate access – is the precise vision upon which the McDowell Sonoran Preserve was built.

Please vote no on Proposition 420.

DeEtte Person

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

Working with Native American communities in the valley has been my passion and life work for almost 50 years. I’ve had numerous opportunities to support and partner with many community organizations in my capacity as the CEO of a local nonprofit organization. I am knowledgeable and experienced in what is required to operate a well-run board of directors and staff.

I was first interested in the mission of Desert Discovery Center Scottsdale because of its all inclusive values. The DDC Board and leadership reached out to the nearest neighbors to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and have been committed to working closely with the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) – where the Salt River Community still tell stories of the Preserve originally being indigenous land within their Community’s boundaries.

I appreciate the architect and experience planner’s respectful incorporation of the content of tribal cultural values, history and research that SRPMIC generously shared. Meetings with the tribal leadership, staff and Community members informed much of the comprehensive and innovative plan for the Desert EDGE.

I am an avid hiker, and I frequently hike from the Gateway on trails throughout the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The land and desert is precious to me and I am committed to informing and educating young and old on the importance of living within our desert lands. The Gateway site for the Desert EDGE (DDC), after extensive analysis and discussion, is the right site. I hope you’ll consider the ramifications of not allowing the Center to be where it has been planned for decades.

For all residents who want to share this wondrous desert, uncover its secrets, feel close to nature, and enjoy and appreciate a visit with interactive research from ASU, SCC and MSC, please VOTE NO on Proposition 420. Thank you.

Diana Yazzie Devine

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

Twice I have testified at City Hall on the need for a nature education center in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Accompanying me were my husband and our son, Tyler. You would know Tyler with his beloved Diamondbacks baseball cap on. You’d remember him because although confined to a wheelchair and developmentally disabled, he exudes an enthusiasm for life and all its possibilities. We have taken Tyler and his sister to more than ten national parks, our wonderful state parks and those near my home in south Scottsdale, where we’ve lived for 58 years.

I’m disappointed by the angry tone I heard from the people who are opposed to this interpretive center that has planned for decades in their neighborhood – probably before they lived there. No one was against the architecture – its perfect the way they moved it away from the neighborhoods with much less impact. The experiences developed by the planners who did the 9/11 Memorial in NYC are sensitive, specific to our precious Sonoran Desert and research with the ASU/SCC collaboration will make a difference around the globe. Just “not in my neighborhood”.

Happily, there are three wonderful handicapped-accessible trails for me to take Tyler – two of them paid for by the volunteer chair of the Desert Discovery Center Scottsdale. This not-for-profit board has many of the leaders of the Preserve movement from decades ago! They want to be certain ALL Scottsdale citizens – students, toddlers, our senior citizens, national and international visitors, plus others like my son – can have a morning at the Preserve, air conditioned by the morning coolness, out of the hot sun, learning and enjoying the lessons we all can get from being immersed in nature.

VOTE NO on Proposition 420... for Tyler and all Scottsdale citizens.

Vicki Leigh Bell,  
Dedicated Mom

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

It is my pleasure to serve on the board of the Desert Discovery Center. My long involvement both in Scottsdale’s development and by providing leadership and resources to many conservation organizations locally attracted me to their mission of an intimate, well-planned nature education center on the edge of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

Many years ago when our company carefully designed and developed McDowell Mountain Ranch, we donated 900 acres of land through a conservation easement to the City of Scottsdale. We are very proud of this community and the Preserve that surrounds it. We knew that the Preserve and the long-planned DDC would be the greatest asset to our neighbors.

- The partnership with ASU, the Global Institute of Sustainability and DDCS/Desert EDGE will allow Scottsdale to make history in this much needed mission to make sure that our beautiful Sonoran Desert can be enjoyed for many generations to come. Scottsdale has the exclusive opportunity to become a global leader in conservation research, policy and education at the Preserve.
- Plans for the DDC were crafted with input from the community plus the expertise of professionals with experience in research, education and interpretation, architecture, business planning and financial feasibility.
- The Preserve’s mission is to provide access to all citizens, including those who don’t or can’t participate in outdoor recreation.
- DDC plans are sensitive to concerns about noise, light, traffic, and safety. The Preserve trails will remain closed from sunset to sunrise as usual. Any after-hours programs will be contained within the DDC.
- Visitors will learn how they can live in an urbanizing world. The DDC will be the first center focused on research and education of our unique Sonoran Desert.

Constructive dialog rather than changing the City’s Charter will make the project better.

**Please VOTE NO on Proposition 420.** Thank you.

John W. Graham  
President and CEO, Sunbelt Holdings

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

As a resident of Scottsdale for over twenty years I have had a strong interest in seeing the Desert Discovery Center be built. I have always seen the Desert Discovery Center as a way to teach people how to best care for our environment and the desert in particular.

I was excited to learn of a team of community leaders who had taken up the challenge of moving the project forward. I was even more excited when I was asked to use my fundraising skills and background to work for DDCS to find out if the project was financially feasible.

My feasibility study included interviewing over sixty local donor prospects and found there was a very strong appetite for the project. My study showed that the project could raise at least \$10 million from the philanthropic community to build the Desert Discovery Center in the preserve.

During my time as Director of Development for DDCS we raised over \$500,000 for operating the organization and we made a great number of friends who were eager to see the project be built.

Through my experiences of raising funds to build the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, the Audubon Center, and Ballet Arizona’s rehearsal studios, I truly believe the Desert Discovery Center could raise the private sector money needed to augment the funds already available from the City, including Tourism Development and Preserve tax funds.

The Desert Discovery Center project as planned is a terrific amenity for our community and environmental educational project that will help teach the next generation a culture of conservation.

I wholeheartedly endorse building the Desert Discovery Center in the Preserve. I hope you'll join me in voting **NO** on the restrictive Proposition 420. Thank you.

Randy Schilling

#### **ARGUMENT "AGAINST" PROPOSITION 420**

I love the McDowell Mountains. I love their purple hue at dusk, the undulations of their peaks against the sky and majestic stature from every vantage point. I've hiked nearly every trailhead, circumnavigated them in the annual Tour de Scottsdale and continue to bring every visitor to the Gateway to see wildflowers each spring since I moved to the Valley in 1991.

I volunteered for more than three years to put form around one of the Preserve's future assets – the Desert EDGE. The concept has been in the city's plans for nearly 30 years, cultivated by passionate people who want to share the McDowells with people who may not venture into their folds. Many of these passionate preservationists who are now involved in creating this asset were at the table when the Preserve itself was created. Some were involved in the very beginning of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy and served on its board of directors for years, some on the MSP Commission. They have volunteered on their own time, working tirelessly at their own expense for years as though they could lose it all if the mountains gave way to development.

I've seen the passion and commitment of these people in the wee hours of the night, hammering out potential scenarios and rallying their friends to support the effort financially. They are inspiring, ethical, giving, collaborative and inclusive. Their energy knows no boundaries and their passion for this project and those mountains is contagious. They have acted selflessly to create an amenity that everyone can enjoy, that unveils the mysteries of the Sonoran Desert and life in arid climates. If Prop 420 passes, this will go away, along with all future improvements to mountain access points. VOTE NO on #420 so we can all enjoy a long-planned nature education center.

Michelle Olson

#### **ARGUMENT "AGAINST" PROPOSITION 420**

I have lived in Scottsdale 52 years, with the exception of a short stint in Phoenix in the early 80's. I have been a practicing attorney in the Valley for 35 years, most of that in Scottsdale; all in the Valley.

I have volunteered by time and professional services to the DDC Board and other supporters in the face of unfair, inaccurate and even cruel treatment by those opposed to the DDC.

I am familiar with the project, both independently, and due to my recent volunteer involvement on the City's General Plan Task Force for some eighteen months. I believe the McDowell Sonoran Preserve deserves to be shared and available to all—Scottsdale residents and visitors. I know our valley tourists have already given generously through bed taxes and sales taxes for the purchase of the Preserve—and, now, for the nature education center that has planned for so long.

The final report reflects a proposed interpretive center, sensitive to the Preserve, not in contravention of its purpose, created through a consortium of long-involved conservation and preservationists in Scottsdale, arguably the most sensitive architect working in the public domain today, the internationally acclaimed experienced designers, city staff and community conservation partners. I sincerely hope the City Council and staff will continue to demonstrate their stewardship of the land and the plan brought forward. I hope we voters in Scottsdale will join me in voting "NO" on this ballot measure, permitting the plans continue to evolve. Don't allow those who oppose anything newer than their tenure in Scottsdale ruin this for the rest of us—and for tourists, so vital to all of us. Thank you.

Loren Molever

#### **ARGUMENT "AGAINST" PROPOSITION 420**

My family and I have hiked, biked, ridden horses and camped all over the desert and mountains now called the preserve for 70 plus years. Scottsdale population 1950 10,000 plus or minus a few. Scottsdale population 2017 250,249 plus or minus a few. Many of us treasured and explored this area before 90% of you got here. Herb Drinkwater worked to build the preserve as did Carla, Jane and many many others. We all raised private money to assist and speed the purchase of lands for the preserve. I have been to five presentations by Thinc for The Desert Discovery Center-Desert Edge. They shocked surprised and impressed me with their research, creative ideas and huge talent. John Sather a FLW student and desert dweller is an excellent choice as architect. I am totally into desert preservation and a way to accomplish that is to have a one of a kind inventive facility than can educate and teach others to RESPECT and PROTECT our best asset the desert.

Vote No.

Janie Ellis

#### **ARGUMENT "AGAINST" PROPOSITION 420**

As a 54+ resident of south Scottsdale, I have happily paid taxes to purchase the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. I have also counted on the long-planned nature education center (Desert Discovery Center/Desert EDGE), to be a part of this. Even for those that no longer hike or bike, the center would be a beautiful place to spend a half day sharing the desert flora and fauna as I would with my seven grandchildren, visitors and friends. I hope you feel the same way.

My daughter has been an educator in Scottsdale for over 16 years and it will be such a wonderful place for she and other teachers to educate our children about nature, conservation, sustainability, science and preservation.

I am so proud and pleased that the Scottsdale Area Association of Realtors (of which I am a long term member) has supported the interpretive center for the preserve. I believe this is an amazing opportunity to make our city even more outstanding.

Maureen Hamilton

#### **ARGUMENT "AGAINST" PROPOSITION 420**

We at Thinc were thrilled to be selected for the Experience Design of the Desert Edge in 2016 and it has been an honor to work on this City of Scottsdale project. We have been inspired by the passionate local commitment to a vision: for a place that will excite, educate and motivate its communities and be a must-visit for tourists.

Like another of our landmark projects, the California Academy of Sciences, the Desert Edge will leverage the essential role of natural science in the protection of our society and environment. With its stories and experiences about the Sonoran Desert, the Desert Edge will play a vital role in ensuring that local preservation of the Desert continues as a priority for many generations to come.

Nestled into the natural grades of the land at the edge of the Preserve, Desert Edge will offer residents and visitors unparalleled vistas of different features of the Preserve – in all kinds of weather. It will present site-specific exhibits that reveal features of the desert beyond what any one of us can see at first glance. Drawing on research into how people form and act upon relationships with natural places, Desert Edge will invite people on a journey of wonder and learning in the desert that will reshape how they understand this magical place – and foster its lasting preservation into the future.

And it has already had global impact. The extraordinary expertise we have encountered in Scottsdale has also directly informed our design for the Sustainability Pavilion at Expo2020 Dubai, the signature pavilion for this upcoming World’s Fair, and the only Pavilion to become a permanent museum.

For all these reasons, local, environmental, and global, we believe Desert Edge is a vital project for Scottsdale.

Tom Hennes, Principal  
Thinc

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

In 2016 we at Thinc Design began a journey of discovery in the Sonoran Desert. The result, Desert Edge, will be a site of empowerment and hope in Arizona. It will be a place to connect children and their parents with the natural environment, celebrate Scottsdale’s innovative strategies for living in the desert, and serve as a hub for understanding how we can all participate in a sustainable future.

Part of the process for all our projects, including the 9/11 Museum, is to develop relationships with all stakeholders and local communities and ensure that the project is at once about and for all of its constituents. Our collaboration with the City of Scottsdale, the Desert Discovery Center Scottsdale, and Swaback Partners sparked an extraordinary concept. Arizona State University, members of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Cultural Resources Department & Cultural Preservation Program, the Scottsdale Unified School District, Experience Scottsdale, and Salt River Project informed its content, as did neighborhood and community groups, teachers, conservation organizations, the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy leadership, educators, and the tourism and business communities.

Thinc has participated in a series of public workshops – a challenging, but ultimately invaluable experience that gave us insight into both the community’s support and concerns. One thing everyone shares is a deep love for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and this remains at the heart of the team’s vision, too, as we seek to reveal its fullest potential for education and inspiration to the community.

As one teacher said:

*“The inspiration to connect with and value a place is a direct outcome of both experiencing the real thing and understanding what you can see.”*

There’s no better reason or time to build a Center in the Preserve and ensure that many future generations recognize its worth as a site of sustainability.

Amanda White, Head of Content  
Thinc

## **ARGUMENT “AGAINST” PROPOSITION 420**

During my tenure as Scottsdale City Manager, I was privileged to be part of many landmark accomplishments. None compare with the creation of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. From the beginning, the vision for this project included a Desert Discovery Center that would share the unique wonder of the McDowell Mountains and Sonoran Desert. It's been more than two decades since the creation of the Preserve and now Scottsdale is on the precipice of yet another monumental moment. The Desert Discovery Center at the Gateway to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve is poised to take a critical next step.

Over the years this project has been discussed, much in the world, our economy and even Scottsdale has changed. But one thing has remained constant – our community's respect for and love of its desert character. The DDC concept (now Desert EDGE) has evolved into one that includes an interpretive education center for local residents and school children; an amenity for tourists to enjoy. It also will put Scottsdale in the spotlight when it comes to issues regarding sustainability, showcasing how we learn and thrive in arid environments. As one who talked about sustainability before it was a buzzword, I can say this is really exciting and gratifying.

Desert Discovery Center Scottsdale is the nonprofit formed to ensure this project is built in the right way, at the right place, with no new taxes.

I'm honored to serve on the DDCS board along with other community leaders who have been part of Scottsdale's preservation story from the beginning.

I urge Scottsdale residents to back this exciting plan – one of the next great things on the horizon for Scottsdale, locally, nationally and internationally. Personally, I can't wait to take my grandchildren to learn more about their environment.

Please vote NO on Prop 420, thank you.

Richard Bowers  
Former Scottsdale City Manager

**The “for” and “against” arguments were reproduced as submitted and were not edited for spelling, grammar, or punctuation. These arguments represent the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy of content.**



**THE CANDIDATE INFORMATION  
PAMPHLET**

**BEGINS ON THE NEXT PAGE**

## CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL



**Name:** Solange Whitehead  
**Age:** 56  
**Education:** Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineer University of Florida  
**Occupation:** Candidate and Owner of Whitehead Realty  
**Website:** [www.solangeforscottsdale.com](http://www.solangeforscottsdale.com)  
**E-mail:** [solange@mlsw.com](mailto:solange@mlsw.com)

Dear Scottsdale Voters,

With your vote, I will restore our priorities and fiscal responsibility to City Hall and protect the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

Professionally, I have found success in multiple industries. I've worked as an electrical engineer, entrepreneur, real estate investor, and directed a non-profit. Civically, I was a Preserve Commissioner, I funded Scottsdale Community College's 3-D printer lab, and was named "Conservationist of the Year" by the Arizona Wildlife Federation. The Coalition of Greater Scottsdale has endorsed my candidacy.

Success in every field is the result of hard work and three priorities: serve your constituency, be transparent, and be fiscally responsible. City Council's effort to develop the Preserve, deny a public vote, and hand tax payers the \$68 million bill breached of all three priorities.

I am proud that our community collected 37,608 signatures to override City Council with Proposition 420. However, City Council's misaligned priorities extend beyond the Preserve. By ceding development decisions to developers, our valuable Scottsdale brand is being chipped away with rampant up-zoning, harming our unique character, and stretching City services to a breaking point. Scottsdale's once flush rainy day fund is bone dry leaving tax payers with \$800 million of unfunded infrastructure needs.

I am running for City Council because representing constituents and safeguarding tax dollars shouldn't be optional.

I support:

- Smart Growth to enhance Scottsdale's allure
- Development fees that cover development costs
- Full funding for Fire and Police
- Prioritize infrastructure, eliminate non-essential projects
- Protect the Preserve
- Invest in Scottsdale's sparkle: the Art's District, Old Town and public venues

I've spent 10 months knocking on doors, meeting many of you. Scottsdale's greatest asset is its people and our stunning achievements have always been citizen-driven. With your vote, I can restore our voice at City Hall and ensure today's priorities are investments in tomorrow's prosperity.

## CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL



**Name:** Linda Milhaven  
**Age:** 60  
**Education:** Columbia University, MBA  
Wellesley College, BA  
Paradise Valley High School  
**Occupation:** Banker  
**Website:** [www.MilhavenforScottsdale.com](http://www.MilhavenforScottsdale.com)  
**E-mail:** [L\\_Milhaven@hotmail.com](mailto:L_Milhaven@hotmail.com)

Twice you honored me with your trust and confidence by electing me to the City Council with the greatest number of votes of any candidate. I hope you will allow me to continue to work on your behalf applying the vision, expertise, and leadership skills that I gained throughout my volunteer and business career to maintain and encourage civility, understand different points of view, and find solutions.

Over the past thirty years, I have served the community as the Board Chair of the Better Business Bureau, the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce and Scottsdale Arts and, professionally, as community bank president.

As your Councilwoman, I have worked to:

- protect and enhance our neighborhoods and quality of life,
- provide the highest levels of police and fire protection,
- ensure that City government is a good steward of your tax dollars, is streamlined and provides high quality services,
- promote private investment that creates a robust local economy with good jobs, low taxes, and strong property values,
- conduct myself with civility,
- listen and learn from citizens with competing points of view and negotiate solutions, as well as
- look to the future to keep Scottsdale special.

Among my many endorsements, I am supported by Professional Firefighters of Arizona, Scottsdale Area Association of Realtors and Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane.

Scottsdale is a special place. It is our home. We must prepare for the future while protecting and respecting the best from our past. I ask for your support and your vote so I may continue to build a positive and prosperous future for Scottsdale.

Visit my website [MilhavenforScottsdale.com](http://MilhavenforScottsdale.com) or my Facebook page – Milhaven for Scottsdale – to learn more.

## CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL



**Name:** David N. Smith

**Education:** BA, Accounting – Northwestern University  
MBA, Finance – Northwestern University  
American Institute and Illinois Society of CPAs

**Occupation:** Councilman

**Website:** [www.electdavidsmith.com](http://www.electdavidsmith.com)

**E-mail:** [elect\\_davidsmith@aol.com](mailto:elect_davidsmith@aol.com)

The entire city of Scottsdale is our “front yard”. It matters to me – as it does to you – what our community is and becomes.

As our city continues to evolve, we will be challenged to insure future greatness equal to our past successes. We need leaders with vision who develop solutions today, instead of “kicking the can down the road” to future generations.

We need leaders who manage with fiscal responsibility, committed to spending your tax dollars wisely. I spent a career in senior financial management, including as Chief Financial Officer of multi-billion-dollar government enterprises – the Tennessee Valley Authority and AMTRAK. I also served three years as your Scottsdale City Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer. *I am the most qualified financial candidate and member of Council.*

We need leaders who respect citizens’ visions for improving the livability of our community, including your priorities for public safety. Since moving here over thirty years ago, my family has had a footprint near Coronado High School, on McCormick Ranch, in the Airpark and in north Scottsdale. *I know the needs and listen to the voices of our entire community.*

We need leaders who understand and protect the drivers of economic development, particularly tourism and the arts. Besides my experience in national businesses, my wife and I owned *Scottsdale Airpark News*, winner of the Chamber of Commerce *Small Business Award*. *I understand how to nurture and recruit both large and small businesses.*

You may vote for **three** Council candidates: I urge you to cast **one** of your three votes for me, a financial professional. With your support, I will serve a second term with fiscal integrity, visionary leadership, proven experience and a pledge of civility to insure Scottsdale remains a beautiful place for us to live, tourists to visit and businesses to prosper.

## CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL



**Name:** Kathy Littlefield  
**Age:** 69  
**Education:** B.A. in Business Education from Arizona State University  
**Occupation:** Part Owner and Treasurer of NetXpert Systems, Inc.  
**Website:** [www.kathylittlefield.com](http://www.kathylittlefield.com)  
**E-mail:** [kathy@kathylittlefield.com](mailto:kathy@kathylittlefield.com)

***I am a Scottsdale native*** and have been a resident activist in Scottsdale for many years. My goals for Council are:

- Protect your neighborhoods from harmful development
- Defend Scottsdale's special character
- Approve conservative fiscal policies
- Promote tourism and small business, and above all,
- Support public safety to protect your neighborhoods and keep you safe.

***I will continue to vote to protect your neighborhoods from harmful development.*** Because I stand with the residents, ***I have been endorsed for re-election by the Coalition of Greater Scottsdale.*** Too often I have watched citizens ask Council to protect their neighborhoods from unwanted development, only to see their concerns ignored. I will continue to vote against developments such as Crossroads East which negatively impact your neighborhoods and quality of life.

***I stand with the citizens for a Charter Amendment requiring a public vote before any commercial development can be built inside our Preserve.*** In fact, I am the only Councilmember who has voted 100% not to proceed with the DDC/Desert EDGE project without the approval of the voters.

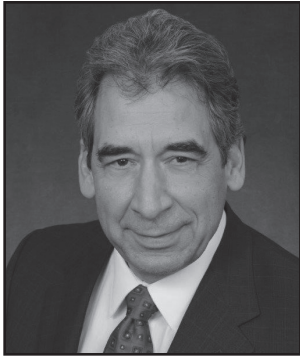
***Because I am a fiscal conservative*** I have fought to keep our taxes low, which is why I opposed the \$350M all-or-nothing bond proposal this spring.

***I support tourism, small business and will defend Scottsdale's special character.*** I will continue to work to attract new businesses and events to Scottsdale. I also support the galleries, restaurants and shops in our Downtown that contribute to our economy and to Scottsdale's unique reputation for arts and culture.

***I support public safety.*** Residents deserve a safe and secure environment in which to live, work and raise their families. Keeping you safe will continue to be my #1 priority, which is why ***Police and Firefighters have endorsed me for re-election.***

I would be honored to receive your vote on November 6th.

## CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL



**Name:** Bill Crawford  
**Age:** 64  
**Education:** Musculoskeletal Evaluation & Rehabilitation  
University of Florida at Gainesville, FL  
**Occupation:** 40+ Year Business Owner  
Health & Fitness Trainer, Educator & Consultant  
**Website:** [www.CrawfordForScottsdale.com](http://www.CrawfordForScottsdale.com)  
**E-mail:** [bill@crawfordforscottsdale.com](mailto:bill@crawfordforscottsdale.com)

I believe Scottsdale is the best city in America. It's an honor to be given serious consideration to be part of our city's leadership.

With my combined experience in business, community service and law enforcement, I am uniquely qualified to serve Scottsdale.

For the past 20 years, I've had the privilege of owning and operating my Downtown Scottsdale business. Running a successful business with my wife Debbie and being involved in the Scottsdale community has been a dream come true for us.

During this time, I've devoted myself to protecting Scottsdale's unique brand and quality of life and have successfully advocated for residents, neighborhoods and businesses citywide.

One of my most notable achievements was working with residents and businesses to address public safety and compatibility concerns, resulting in a successful clean up of the Entertainment District in Downtown Scottsdale.

As a business owner and community leader, I have a proven track record of bringing people together from all sides to solve problems. I believe in listening, not taking sides, and uniting residents for a common solution. If elected, I will continue to build on our city's successes to keep Scottsdale moving forward.

I will ensure Scottsdale continues to provide a high quality of life for residents and visitors. This includes keeping crime and taxes low, maintaining a strong and vibrant economy, and addressing our deteriorating infrastructure with a responsible plan. We must protect our priceless treasures and our property values. I will work hard to keep the shine on Scottsdale.

I care deeply about Scottsdale and our future, and I will continue being an active force making a positive difference. I'm proud to have the support of Mayor Jim Lane, the Scottsdale Area Association of REALTORS and many more throughout our great community.

I respectfully ask for your vote.



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**OFFICIAL VOTING MATERIALS** - ONLY ONE PAMPHLET HAS BEEN MAILED TO EACH HOUSEHOLD CONTAINING A REGISTERED VOTER. PLEASE MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD.