

Judge decides 1¢ bump in sales tax isn't 17.8%

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The Arizona Legislative Council will not be allowed to use this sentence in a description of a proposed transportation tax initiative in the state's publicity pamphlet: "The transaction privilege tax ("sales tax") and the use tax would be increased from 5.6 cents per one dollar to 6.6 cents per one dollar (a 17.8% tax increase)."

Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Edward Burke ruled Aug. 4 that "although the percentage increases are mathematically correct, and mathematicians will not be confused, the way in which the information is presented is likely to mislead many voters."

The Transportation and Infrastructure Moving Arizona's Economy, Advertisement or TIME initiative, on the Nov. 4 ballot, proposes raising the state's sales tax for freeway construction, light rail, other transportation, and preservation of open space and wildlife habitats.

The Legislative Council had argued the percentage descriptions were "accurate, clear and impartial."

The council provides research and other administrative nonpartisan services to the Legislature.

