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August 12, 2008

It's 'TIME' for less drastic measures

Tribune Editorial

Savor the day, taxpayers. But understand that when it comes to government's thirst for your money, the battle is never over.

Arizona Secretary of State Jan Brewer announced Monday that Proposition 203 lacked enough valid signatures to be on the Nov. 4 ballot Prop. 203 is an initiative backed by Gov. Janet Napolitano that would increase the state sales tax by one cent, which amounts to an 18 percent hike in the state's share of the tax. Development and transportation interests and the governor want the increase to fund \$42 billion in transportation system improvements over the next 30 years.

In April, we urged the so-called TIME Coalition to drop the initiative campaign, because it is likely that voters would defeat it in these financially hard times. We urged the coalition and state Legislature to work out another funding mechanism that redirects the financial burden from the general population to motorists and growth interests - in other words, those who benefit the most.

On Monday, Brewer said that 42 percent of the petition signatures were invalid, leaving initiative backers about 15,000 names short of qualifying. But the campaign for the tax hike isn't giving up. Their spokeswoman said the campaign is going over the signatures and is confident they will find enough valid signatures to ask state courts to reverse Brewer's decision.

The fight over who gets your money is not over.



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