



Report submitted by Robert Fischer, September 2005

LOCAL

TEMPE

The city of Tempe is making a big push for ASU students and all residents to complete Census 2005 surveys. At the request of Arizona's city leaders, the U.S. Census Bureau will be sending Census 2005 surveys to Arizona residents to update information collected in the last nationwide Census survey, conducted in 2000. The state of Arizona wants to ensure that the U.S. government has accurate information on the population of Arizona, given the large increases in population the last few years.

It is critical for Tempe residents who receive a Census 2005 survey to complete and return the survey. Mayor Hugh Hallman, told the Arizona Republic that "Undercounting Tempe residents would cost us millions of dollars, and those dollars help us to provide police, fire, parks and recreation services." It is estimated that the city can receive funds from the U.S. government of more than \$300 per resident counted through the survey process.

The City of Tempe has hung a banner across Mill Avenue, purchased advertisements in the State Press, put up posters on the Tempe campus, placed information in ASU Insight, and will also be sending residents information through the mail. The website for the Census 2005 survey is www.census2005.com

PHOENIX

On Tuesday, September 13th, Phoenix city residents will vote for city council candidates. Unfortunately, aspects of the expansion of the downtown ASU campus have become part of the differences between incumbent city council members and challengers for city council seats.

In March of 2006, Phoenix city residents will vote in a special election to determine whether or not to authorize an \$850 million bond program. The revenue generated by the bond program will fund a number of city initiatives including parks and recreation, fire and police, libraries, community centers, and funding for the completion of the ASU downtown campus expansion.

Phoenix City officials have already committed an initial \$100 million to develop the downtown ASU campus. The city of Phoenix has also used the power of eminent domain to acquire land for the campus. However, the Mayor and City Council of Phoenix are supporting the use of \$150 million of the bond program for the downtown campus expansion. The Mayor and the City Council are supporting the downtown campus expansion as part of an overall plan to revitalize downtown.

Three of the four challengers for city council seats have expressed frustration with the use of bond program revenue for the campus. Warren Severin, a challenger for the city council seat in District 6, told the Arizona Republic that, "This is a good ol' boy deal and a bribe to ASU to build in downtown. It's a big bribe."

Mayor Phil Gordon, told the Arizona Republic, "Shame on those trying to jeopardize the economic health of the city and the educational benefits for children." Mayor Gordon also stated, "The downtown project, with education, science and research at its cornerstone, including ASU, was supported from one end of the city to the other because residents know that the investment in education is a long-term investment that will pay dividends for generations," he said.

GPSA NOTE: All incumbent city council candidates won re-election.