

Flagstaff Public Safety Citizen Committee
Core Services at 3200 W Route 66 or Microsoft Teams: [Join the meeting now](#)
April 29, 2026 at 3:30-5:30 pm

Alida Pfeil
BJ Dempsey
Bonnie Bouschet
Bonnie Estes
John Van Landingham
Melanie Colavito
Michele James, Vice Chair
Mike Loven, Chair
Mike Sifling
Rick Lopez
Scott Strohmeyer
Tony Carrozzino
Vince Martinez

- Open Call to the Public will remain open until 4 pm
 - Danielle
 - Derek
 - Seth
- Potential Public Safety Ballot Measure Committee member discussion
 - It would be helpful to know if there are others coming up on a future ballot in the next 5-10 years - shared we have already had conversation about future need of wastewater treatment plant funding and the City Leadership is looking at a 5-10 year plan for bonds to address unfunded project, the Alliance group discusses on an annual basis for election plans, we know this year FUSD will have two items on the November 2026 ballot
 - Survey information was good but did not include the total of sales tax - addressed ballot language includes City base sales tax and does not include County tax or other specialty taxes like BBB
 - During a meeting today there was a mention a flat or negative growth period over the next few year so how is the City projecting the needs based on growth - requests are not based on future growth it is based on immediate need for emergency services, message needs to be based on catch up
 - Commitment to relocate and continue dedication towards public safety will be important to those who are engaging in conversations
 - Not our job to pitch this to the voters and we cannot guarantee if this will pass or not pass
 - City Manager's recommended budget is to use 7% of available capacity and it is going 100% towards public safety ongoing base budget, which is approximately \$500K
 - Agree public safety is not to the level it needs to be and know it is critical
 - Committee has said it is about where we are allocating the money to and sharing this message of this is critical and if budget cuts can happen voters may believe it is more reasonable
 - Where else can we get some of these funds
 - Surprised not much difference between 0.25% and 0.50% on the survey

- Think about affordability and its our job to recommend something less than 0.50% and the regressive manner of taxes and reduce bond to match the 0.25%
- Swayed by presentations and am not in favor of raising taxes, but first responders and community deserve this
- Received phone call with survey questions from FUSD and expressed concern over people not wanting to support
- Concern about ability for a ballot to be successful
- If want to reduce increase, then look at an amount between 0.25% and 0.50%, 0.38%
- Concern about hospitality tax and minimum wage
- Sales tax does not apply to food and residential rent
- Allow public safety to have money earmarked to budgets which would be beneficial and go a long ways
- Nothing is getting cheaper when looking at fleet, apparatus, etc.
- Phenomenal job on sharing information to create understanding
- Emphasize when hearing from divisions and family member you hear a different perception and understand why this is needed
- Committee expressed the important of the bond language being specific on intent of funding so money would not be used for other purposes
- What would Committee recommend?
 - 7 expressed support for 0.50% sales tax
 - 2 expressed support for 0.25% sales tax
 - 1 expressed support for an amount between 0.25-0.50% sales tax
 - 8 expressed support for \$40M bond
 - 1 expressed support for \$23.5M bond (match to 0.25% sales tax items)
- Create slide with Committee recommendation for next meeting
- Next Meeting: May 6th 3:30 pm at Core Services