

ELECTION 2026



YAVAPAI COUNTY
VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET
and
BALLOT FORMAT (TEXT OF BALLOT)

Proposal to be submitted to the qualified electors of
Yavapai County at the

GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Compiled and issued by
Laurin L. Custis, Director of Elections

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Message to Yavapai County Voters:

The purpose of this publicity pamphlet is to provide you with information regarding Proposition No. 497 **PROPOSING AN INCREASE IN THE YAVAPAI COUNTY JAIL DISTRICT EXCISE TAX** that will appear on the November 3, 2026, General Election Ballot. The information within this pamphlet describes the effects of a “YES” and “NO” vote for the proposed increase. This pamphlet is provided to assist you in being prepared to exercise your right to vote. I urge you to carefully read and consider the information provided. This publicity pamphlet also provides general information regarding voting in Yavapai County.

Sincerely,

Laurin L. Custis
Yavapai County Director of Elections
1015 Fair St., RM 228
Prescott, Arizona 86305
elections@yavapaiaz.gov
www.yavapaivotes.gov
928-771-3248

IMPORTANT VOTER INFORMATION

The **deadline to register** to vote for the November 3, 2026, General Election is **Monday, October 5, 2026**. Re-registration is required if you change your residential mailing address, name, or party affiliation.
General Election Ballots will be mailed on **Wednesday, October 7, 2026**.

Early Voting

Early Voting begins on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at the following locations:

- Prescott: Yavapai County Administration Building, 1015 Fair Street
8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday
- Prescott Valley: 3001 Main St., Suite 1E/ F in the Prescott Valley Entertainment District
8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday
- Cottonwood: Yavapai County Cottonwood Annex, 10 S. 6th Street
8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday

Official Drop Box Locations

Bagdad - Bagdad Justice Court, 100 Main Street
Black Canyon City - Black Canyon City Library, 34701 South Old Black Canyon Highway
Camp Verde - Town Hall, 473 South Main Street
Camp Verde - Yavapai-Apache Nation Community Center, 3462 Smith Avenue
Chino Valley - Town Hall, 202 North State Route 89
Clarkdale - Town Hall, 39 North 9th Street
Congress - Congress Library, 26750 S Santa Fe Road
Cottonwood - County Administration Building, 10 South 6th Street
Dewey-Humboldt - Town Hall, 2735 South Highway 69
Jerome - Town Hall, 600 Clark Street
Paulden - Paulden Library, 16 Big Chino Road
Prescott - County Administration Building, 1015 Fair Street
Prescott Valley - Town Hall, 7501 Skoog Boulevard
Sedona - City Hall, 102 Roadrunner Drive

Seligman - Seligman Library, 54170 North Floyd Street
Skull Valley - U.S. Post Office, 3085 South Iron Springs Road
Spring Valley - Spring Valley Library, 17320 East Mule Deer Drive
Village of Oak Creek - Village of Oak Creek Fire Station #3, 125 Slide Rock Road
Yarnell - Yarnell Justice Court, 22591 South Looka Way

Where to Vote on Election Day

Vote Centers will be open on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2026, from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Voter ID at the polls is required. For a list of acceptable forms or identification visit:

www.yavapaivotes.gov/Elections/Vote-Centers

VC-01 Yavapai County Administration Building, 1015 Fair Street, Prescott
VC-02 Trinity Presbyterian Church, 630 Park Avenue, Prescott
VC-03 Paulden Community Center, 24050 N Marblehead Avenue, Paulden
VC-04 Yavapai College, 1100 E. Sheldon Street Building #16 Performing Arts Center, Prescott
VC-05 Center for Spiritual Living 3755 Willow Creek Rd, Prescott
VC-06 Grace Baptist Church 2010 S. Highway 89, Chino Valley
VC-07 Chino Valley Victory Church FKA: First Southern Baptist Church 1524 N. Highway 89, Chino Valley
VC-08 Findlay Toyota Center 3201 N. Main Street, Prescott Valley
VC-09 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints 7073 Pronghorn Ranch Pkwy, Prescott Valley
VC-10 Canyon Bible Church 8582 East Eastridge Drive, Prescott Valley
VC-11 Gateway Baptist Church 12900 Prescott Dells Road, Dewey-Humboldt
VC-12 Mission Church 6555 S. State Route Hwy 69, Mayer
VC-13 Community Library Sedona 3250 White Bear Rd. Sedona
VC-14 Sedona/VOC Fire Station #3, 125 Slide Rock Road, Sedona
VC-15 Clark Memorial Clubhouse 19 N. 9th Street, Clarkdale
VC-16 Yavapai College, 601 W. Black Hills Drive, Clarkdale
VC-17 Peace Lutheran Church, 1450 E. Fir Street, Cottonwood
VC-18 Immaculate Conception Catholic Church 700 N. Bill Gray Road, Cottonwood
VC-19 Camp Verde Community Gym 51 E. Hollamon Street, Camp Verde
VC-20 Ash Fork Public Library/Learning Center 450 W. Lewis Avenue, Ash Fork
VC-21 Freeport-McMoRan - Bagdad Event Center 121 Main Street, Bagdad
VC-22 Beaver Creek Baptist Church, 3705 E. Beaver Creek Road, Rimrock
VC-23 High Desert Park, 19001 Jacie Lane, Black Canyon City
VC-24 Good Shepherd of the Desert Catholic Church, 26750 S. Congress Way, Congress
VC-25 Spring Valley Community Church, 13955 S. Spring Lane, Spring Valley
VC-26 Seligman Library 54170 N. Floyd Street, Seligman
VC-27 Yarnell Presbyterian Church 16455 W. Table Top Way, Yarnell

I'VE RECEIVED MY EARLY BALLOT, NOW WHAT DO I DO?

Once you have received your ballot, read all the instructions carefully.

Use **BLACK OR BLUE INK ONLY** to completely fill in the oval to the **LEFT** of your choice to vote for a candidate or to vote for or against a proposition/question.

Check for races on all sides of all pages of your ballot.

Then simply insert your voted ballot into the pink and white affidavit envelope, **SIGN** the affidavit envelope, seal it, and return it.

**ALL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE YAVAPAI COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE BY
ELECTION DAY, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026, AT 7PM**

Do not mail your early ballot after **Tuesday, October 27, 2026**, as it may not arrive in time. Postmarks are not accepted, and late ballots will not be tabulated.

If you have a question regarding your voter registration status or need a replacement early ballot, please call Yavapai County Voter Registration at 928-771-3248.



**YAVAPAI COUNTY JAIL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-1**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE YAVAPAI COUNTY JAIL DISTRICT TO ORDER AND CALL AN ELECTION AND REFER TO VOTERS AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026, A BALLOT MEASURE PROPOSING AN INCREASE IN THE JAIL DISTRICT EXCISE TAX

WHEREAS, County Jail Districts are authorized, pursuant to §48-4022(A)(1) of the Arizona Revised Statutes, to levy, with voter approval, an excise (sales) tax not to exceed ½ cent per dollar on eligible sales within the District; and

WHEREAS, at the General Election held on November 2, 1999, a majority of qualified voters approved the establishment of the Yavapai County Jail District and authorized the levy of a Jail District Sales Tax not to exceed ¼ cent per dollar on eligible sales within the District, for a period of 20 years, from July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on December 6, 1999, the Board of Directors of the Yavapai County Jail District, pursuant to §48-4022(A)(1) of the Arizona Revised Statutes, approved Resolution #1999-1 authorizing the excise levy of ¼ cent per dollar within the district and directing that collection of the voter-approved Jail District Sales Tax commence as of July 1, 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors and the Yavapai County Sheriff have sought to identify and implement strategies that would ensure that the jail system operates both efficiently and effectively; and

WHEREAS, costs of operating the County's jail system exceed the combined revenues generated by the current ¼ cent Jail District Sales Tax and the County's statutorily required Maintenance of Effort payments from the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has determined that unless additional sources of revenue are made available to the Jail District, diversion of monies from the County's General Fund will be necessary, forcing reductions in other vital County services; and

WHEREAS, a Jail District Excise Tax allows a portion of the cost of jail operations to be borne by those visiting Yavapai County including non-residents, some of whom, from time to time, occupy the District's jail facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors, has concluded that an increase in the Jail District Excise Tax offers a fair and cost-effective means to obtain the revenues needed to ensure the continued safety and security of the citizens of Yavapai County.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Board of Directors hereby calls and directs that a ballot measure to request approval of a ¼ cent increase in the Jail District Excise Tax be placed on the ballot for the

General Election to be held on November 3, 2026; and

2. That the Board of Directors hereby proposes an increase in the Jail District Excise Tax from $\frac{1}{4}$ cent per dollar to up to $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per dollar, on eligible sales within the District, for a term of twenty years beginning July 1, 2027, to fund county jails and jail systems; and
3. That the ballot for said election shall contain those items specified by §48-4021(B) of the Arizona Revised Statutes; and
4. That a publicity pamphlet shall be prepared and distributed in the manner provided by state law and shall contain the information specified by §48-4021(C) of the Arizona Revised Statutes; and
5. That the last day to register to vote for the election is October 5, 2026.
6. That if authorized by voters, the revenues generated by the proposed Jail District Excise Tax shall be used only for acquiring, constructing, operating, maintaining and financing the Jail District's jail systems and facilities.

Approved and Adopted by the Yavapai County Jail District Board of Directors this 18th day of March 2026.

/s/ _____
B Compton, Chair Yavapai County
Jail District Board of Directors

ATTEST:

/s/ _____
Jayme Rush, Clerk of the Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND DETERMINED TO BE WITHIN THE AUTHORITY
OF THE YAVAPAI COUNTY JAIL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

/s/ _____
Martin Brennan, Deputy County Attorney

FULL TEXT OF BALLOT

PROPOSITION No. 497

Yavapai County Jail District Excise Tax Increase

The Board of Directors of the Yavapai County Jail District asks the voters of Yavapai County for approval to increase the existing Jail District excise (sales) tax $\frac{1}{4}$ of a cent (\$0.0025) per dollar. The existing $\frac{1}{4}$ cent Jail District sales tax is not sufficient to pay the costs of the Jail District. The estimated future revenue needs for the Jail District are \$41.44 million per year and will likely increase over time due to inflation and population growth. The County will be required to contribute \$8.88 million next year to the Jail District from the County General Fund as legally required "maintenance of effort," and will need to contribute an additional \$16.15 million from the County General Fund to pay the costs of the Jail District. If approved, this tax will take effect on July 1, 2027, and will continue for a period of twenty years.

Shall the Yavapai County Jail District excise (sales) tax be increased $\frac{1}{4}$ of a cent (\$0.0025) per dollar to fund the Jail District.

A "YES" vote would have the effect of approving an increase in the Jail District excise tax of $\frac{1}{4}$ of a cent (\$0.0025) per dollar.

A "NO" vote would have the effect of rejecting an increase in the Jail District excise tax of $\frac{1}{4}$ of a cent (\$0.0025) per dollar.

YES _____

NO _____

PROPOSITION No. 497 - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is the estimated revenue from the new ¼ cent sales tax?

- The estimated annual revenue to be raised from the new ¼ cent sales tax is \$16.3 million.

Why are the voters of Yavapai County being asked to vote on Proposition No. 497?

- The estimated cost to operate and maintain the county jail system is \$41.44 million per year.
- Over and above the statutorily required funding of \$8.88 million, Yavapai County contributes an additional \$16.15 million annually to the Jail District from the General Fund.
- General Fund revenue comes primarily from property taxes.
- The new ¼ cent sales tax will reduce the additional transfer from the General Fund and provide funding for the Jail District.

How much of this sales tax would be paid by tourism?

- Approximately 20% of the sales tax collected in the County is paid by tourism dollars.
- Sales tax is paid by all shoppers, spreading funding responsibility beyond homeowners.

Are there exemptions to this sales tax? Yes!

- Service Exemption: Most services in Arizona are exempt from sales tax, reducing the tax burden on service providers and consumers.
- Grocery Exemption: Food for home consumption is exempt from sales tax to ease the cost of living and ensure affordability for residents.
- Prescription Medication Exemption: Prescription medication is exempt from sales tax to support healthcare affordability for patients.
- Medical Device Exemption: Medical devices are not subject to sales tax to facilitate access to necessary health equipment.

How much will this sales tax cost me?

The new ¼ cent sales tax would equal one cent on a \$4.00 purchase.

Who operates the Yavapai County Jail?

The Yavapai County Sheriff, in collaboration with the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors, operates a constitutionally based jail, focused on the care, custody, and control of the inmate population.

Where can I find more information regarding Proposition No. 497?

Please visit: YavapaiAZ.GOV/JailDistrictFunding or call 928-771-3200

ARGUMENTS FOR

PROPOSITION No. 497

Arguments represent the opinion of the authors.

As Sheriff of Yavapai County, I support the increase of the jail district sales tax from .25% to .5% of one cent as means of lowering property tax. The current jail district sales tax does not cover the operations of the Yavapai County Jail requiring a transfer of about \$16 million dollars of property tax dollars from the General Fund to the Jail District for operations per year. If this increase to the jail district sales tax is approved by the voters, the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors will in turn be able to lower the property tax rate for property owners. It is important to understand that the operations of the jail are fully funded thanks to the community and BOS support of public safety in Yavapai County. However, a no vote will result in the continued funding of the jail strictly from property tax dollars and will not capitalize on the sales tax revenue generated from tourism and non-property owners. I appreciate sincerely the support from the community for public safety. The Yavapai County Jail is a symbol of security in the community and dedicated funding will allow me to continue to hold criminals accountable while providing opportunity for recovery.

David Rhodes
Prescott, Arizona

I am writing in strong support of Proposition 497.

One of the most compelling commitments associated with this proposition is the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors' agreement to offset property taxes beginning in July 2027. This commitment recognizes that approving the ¼-cent Jail District sales tax will generate revenue that directly reduces our reliance on local property taxes to fund the county jail system.

I sincerely appreciate the Board of Supervisors for taking this proactive step. By shifting a portion of the funding responsibility to a sales tax paid not just by local residents, but also by the millions of visitors who enjoy Yavapai County each year we reduce the burden on local property owners. It creates a fairer funding model that ensures our law enforcement and public safety systems remain fully funded without over-taxing local homeowners.

While the exact offset will be finalized during the county's standard budgeting process, the Board's pledge demonstrates a clear commitment to meaningful tax relief. I encourage my fellow Yavapai County taxpayers to join me in voting YES on Proposition 497.

Sandy Griffis
Prescott Valley, Arizona

As a citizen of the Yavapai County and the Chair of the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express my strong support for the continued authorization and funding of the Yavapai County Jail District.

Ensuring the safety, welfare, and security of our residents is the single most vital responsibility of county government. Operating a safe, modern, and legally compliant law enforcement and detention system requires stable, dedicated financial resources. The Jail District tax provides essential, reliable funding directly targeted at maintaining our jail facilities, supporting law enforcement personnel, and housing detainees is placing an unsustainable burden on the County's General Fund.

I remain firmly committed to conservative fiscal management and transparency. Revenue generated by the Jail District is strictly dedicated to public safety operations. Supporting this measure ensures that the Yavapai County Sheriff David Rhodes retains the operational capacity necessary to keep dangerous offenders off our streets and maintain security throughout Yavapai County.

I urge our community members to support this vital investment in local public safety. Continuing to fund the Yavapai County Jail District protects our neighborhoods, supports our first responders, and safeguards the quality of life we all cherish across Yavapai County.

Sincerely,
Brooks Compton
Prescott, Arizona

As a citizen of Yavapai County along with being a Yavapai County Board of Supervisor since July 15, 2019, I have learned through every budget year how important it is to support the Yavapai County Jail District funding. This funding ensures the safety, welfare and security of our residents, it is the single most vital responsibility of county government.

I have always been firmly committed to conservative fiscal management and transparency. Revenue that is generated by the jail district tax is STRICTLY dedicated to public safety operations. This ensures that the Yavapai County Sheriff David Rhodes retains the operational capacity necessary to keep dangerous offenders off the streets.

I urge the community members to support this vital investment in our local public safety. The Yavapai County Jail District was established July 28, 1999 and has been such a benefit to all the local law enforcement in all our communities, relieving the cities and towns of funding the jail system.

Please join me in voting YES on 497 and LOWER your property tax!

Sincerely,
Mary Mallory
Yavapai County Supervisor
Prescott Valley, Arizona

Vote YES on 497 - Having lived, worked, and volunteered in Yavapai County, AZ, since 2006, I have experienced the managed growth that comes with living in a premium location. As a resident of the largest municipality in Yavapai County, Prescott Valley, I support the Jail District. As we grow, our regional needs demand more attention—that includes the Jail District! Understanding financials and government budgeting, I can clearly say this approach of having tourism visitors help pay for a needed tax increase is particularly appropriate since some of our jail “visitors” come from areas outside of this county. This is not the first time it has come before the voters. Leadership definitely looked for ways to reduce burden on the taxpayer. I am in support of Proposition 497 that will help protect lower property taxes by instead swapping out for a proposed sales tax increase from ¼ cent to ½ cent to fund the Jail District.

Jodi Rooney Lair
Resident and former Councilmember
Prescott Valley, Arizona

The Yavapai County proposed 1/4 cent sales tax has merit. This modest increase will be shared by all that visit this beautiful place and will reduce the temptation by Election Officials to raise property taxes to cover Jail District expenses. I support this proposal and encourage you to do so as well.

Richard Parker
Prescott, Arizona

Please join me in voting for Proposition 497 which will adequately fund the county jail system with sales tax dollars which will allow a revenue stream which will have the net effect of reducing property tax reliance. Attention to all facets of our criminal justice system will continue to serve us with continued low crime rates resulting in maintaining our great quality of life. Vote yes on 497.

Larry Tarkowski
Prescott Valley, Arizona

As a Yavapai County Supervisor, guiding the county in a fiscally responsible direction is one of my main obligations. I believe strongly that approving Prop 497 will help Yavapai County provide transparent accounting practices by removing the General Fund subsidy of the Jail District, while also providing a way for tourists and visitors to pay their fair share (about 20%) of the cost that we incur to provide jail services.

Additionally, I would support reducing property taxes in the next budget cycle should this measure pass. Please, help us leverage tourism in a way that will benefit property owners so that Yavapai County continues to have a vibrant and safe future ahead of us.

Please, join me in voting YES on Prop 497.

Sincerely,

Nikki Check
Vice Chair Yavapai County Board of Supervisors - District 3
Jerome, Arizona

The Yavapai County government is being managed conservatively. Years of reducing property tax rates has been a theme of the board for years. This kind of stewardship is critical to making Yavapai County efficient and solving for continued public safety service to the citizens.

I have been engaged in budgets for decades. The state government during the great recession had to make difficult choices of significantly reducing expenses. We did it with a short-term fix of a state sales tax that the voters approve in difficult times. Though difficult decisions were necessary this proved to be a successful strategy for a balanced budget solution.

Strategies like this reduction in property tax through a sales tax, restores the stability of the Jail District for the future and relieves the Yavapai County budget of this growing expense that currently puts property taxes at greater risk.

These choices are usually more difficult to make but the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors and Yavapai County Sheriff's Office have made a good recommendation with this initiative and I support this effort on continued financial competence and conservative decision making going forward.

Sincerely

Andy Tobin
Speaker of the Arizona House 2010-2014
Director Arizona Department of Administration 2018-2022
Paulden, Arizona

Give me a choice between property tax and sales tax, I'll choose sales tax every time! I say spread the obligation of having and maintaining a jail system amongst every consumer in Yavapai County rather than just property owners.

It is an indisputable fact that every single Sheriff in Arizona shall keep and maintain a jail. Further, that jail must meet or exceed local, state, and federal standards. Meeting those standards takes significant amounts of money. Failure to meet those standards results in fines, lawsuits, judgments, and potential federal government intervention. If that were to happen (which it came close to in the late 1990's) we will end up paying exponentially more than what we pay now. We all know what happens when bureaucrats run things.

The Yavapai County Jail system is the gold standard. It consistently meets or exceeds those standards protecting our County's general fund from unnecessary payouts and litigation. Further, the Yavapai County Jail and some of its innovative programs have become a model for many other jail systems nationwide.

Look, I'm not saying that the standards set forth are reasonable for the taxpayer base to bear the cost of. In fact, I find that the way we treat our prisoners in this country is way too lenient. However, that's a conversation and a topic that has nothing to do with this ballot measure. This ballot measure merely gives us the opportunity to choose how we pay to fund our jail system. So once again, I encourage you to choose funding our jail system via a method that spreads it out over visitors and residents alike rather than just property owners!

Let's continue leading the way as a jail system that operates above reproach.

Vote yes for proposition 497!

Brian Silvernale
Prescott, Arizona

I am in strong support of the increase of 1/4 cent.
Reducing my property tax by implementing the jail tax (which will be also paid by tourists) is a strong incentive to support the increase.
I am particularly pleased with how the jail district has been managed – we can thank our sheriff and our supervisors for this leadership.
Vote YES

Bill Feldmeier
Camp Verde, Arizona

I am the Mayor of Prescott Valley, and I am voting YES on Prop 497. Proposition 497 is about protecting public safety today while planning responsibly for the future. As our County continues to grow, so do the demands on our jail system. Costs have risen significantly due to population increases, inflation, and the need to maintain safe and effective detention facilities. Prop 497 provides a practical solution by creating a stable, dedicated funding source to meet those needs.

Without this measure, the County would be forced to continue pulling millions of dollars from the General Fund just to keep the jail system operating. That directly impacts other essential services like road maintenance, parks, and additional public safety resources. By approving Prop 497, we reduce that strain and allow the County to better balance its overall budget.

This modest quarter-cent sales tax spreads the cost across both residents and visitors, rather than placing the burden on property owners alone. It's a fair and sustainable approach that reflects how county services are actually used.

Most importantly, Prop 497 allows for long-term planning. Instead of reacting to budget shortfalls year after year, the County can proactively ensure that our jail system remains adequately staffed, properly maintained, and capable of serving our community safely.

At its core, this measure is about responsibility—protecting taxpayers, supporting public safety, and ensuring Yavapai County is prepared for the future. Plus, this will help LOWER our Property Taxes into the future.

Kell Palguta
Dewey, Arizona

Approval of Proposition 497 will shift the burden of funding the Jail District tax, mostly, from property tax paid by property owners in Yavapai County to a county sales tax. The general fund contribution to the Jail District tax revenue will be reduced by several million dollars and replaced by new revenue from the Jail District sales tax. The advantage for Yavapai County residents is that typically 20% to 25% of Yavapai County sales tax revenue is generated from visitors who live outside our county. This change in how our Jail District is funded is a clear victory for Yavapai County residents. This is a "no brainer". This should have been set up this way from the beginning. Please vote YES on Proposition 497.

Steven Rutherford
Prescott, Arizona

Dear Residents of Yavapai County,

As the Yavapai County Supervisor for District 2, I strongly support and encourage voters to approve the Jail District tax increase from ¼ cent to ½ cent.

A “yes” vote demonstrates our commitment to supporting the law enforcement professionals who work every day to keep our communities safe. The Jail District tax provides essential funding for jail operations, including maintenance, personnel and the housing and care of detainees. However, due to rising inflation, population growth, and increasing public safety demands, the current ¼ cent tax is no longer sufficient to cover the full cost. As a result, the short fall has been subsidized by diverting millions of dollars annually from the County’s General Fund, which is funded primarily by property taxes. This places an unfair burden on local property owners to subsidize jail operations and reduces funding that could otherwise support departments that provide community health services, libraries, and road maintenance and improvements.

The proposed increase would shift a greater share of funding to a sales tax model, ensuring that both residents and visitors contribute to the cost of maintaining our jail system. This is a more balanced and sustainable approach that recognizes the Board’s commitment to fiscal responsibility and provides the Board financial ability to lower property tax rates.

Please join me in voting “yes” on this important measure. It is a necessary investment in public safety that helps protect our neighborhoods and preserve the quality of life we all value and enjoy in Yavapai County.

Thank you,

Dee Jenkins
Yavapai County District 2 Supervisor
Camp Verde, Arizona

The manner in which this proposition is being submitted to the public is in the same format as the "Jail Tax", as it was referred to then, was proposed to, Yavapai County Voters to pay for the Law Enforcement Center facility and operations.

In that same manner, this 1/4 of a penny Jail District tax will continue to be paid through "Sales Tax" by all persons living or visiting Yavapai County, not just by property owners living here as a Property Tax increase would. It provides for a \$4M reduction in Property Taxes levies in 2027.

This is the best approach to provide for Law Enforcement financial support and reduce the burden to County Property Taxpayers!

Let this be paid by those visiting our wonderful County.

Craig Brown
Prescott, Arizona

To the Residents of Yavapai County,

During my time serving as your Yavapai County Supervisor for District 3, my top priority was ensuring our county operated with strict fiscal responsibility. With that same commitment, I am writing to express my strong support for Proposition 497.

Public safety is county government's most vital responsibility. Properly funding the Jail District ensures Sheriff David Rhodes and local law enforcement have the capacity to keep dangerous offenders off our streets, while relieving our cities and towns of the burden of funding jail systems themselves.

However, our current funding model must evolve. The Jail District currently requires a General Fund subsidy, a financial burden that falls heavily on local property owners. Proposition 497 offers a smart, fiscally responsible solution.

By approving a ¼-cent Jail District sales tax, we will finally leverage our robust tourism industry. Millions of visitors enjoy Yavapai County annually. This measure ensures these tourists pay their fair share—offsetting approximately 20% of the costs we incur to provide these essential services.

Most importantly, this paves the way for direct taxpayer relief. The Board of Supervisors has committed to using this revenue to offset property taxes beginning in July 2027. By removing the General Fund subsidy, we can maintain a fully funded, transparent public safety system without over-taxing local homeowners. Prop 497 is a proactive step toward a fairer funding model that protects our vibrant, safe future. Please join me in lowering the burden on property owners by voting YES on Proposition 497.

Sincerely,

Randy Garrison

Former Yavapai County Board of Supervisors, District 3
Cottonwood, Arizona

I support the increase in the jail district tax because it will reduce property taxes for Yavapai County residents. Unlike property tax, sales tax funding allows the many visitors to our county to help support our mandated jail services.

When we implemented the original jail district tax, I'll admit we were too frugal—but you could still buy lunch for less than five dollars back then. Many of our residents live on fixed incomes, and many families are getting by paycheck to paycheck. We should do everything we can to lower property taxes for our community.

This revenue will be restricted and can only be used for the operation of Yavapai County's jail system.

Please join me with voting YES.

Chip Davis

Prescott, Arizona

As a resident, citizen, and elected official of Yavapai County, I am very proud of the work done by our Yavapai County Sheriff's Office and fully and enthusiastically support Proposition 497.

Steve King
Camp Verde, Arizona

I support Proposition 497 because it strengthens public safety while providing property tax relief for homeowners.

The measure replaces a portion of property tax funding with a modest sales tax, creating a more balanced way to fund the county jail. This approach helps reduce the burden on property owners while allowing visitors and others who shop in Yavapai County to help support an essential public safety service they also benefit from.

A safe, well-funded jail is a critical part of our criminal justice system and helps ensure law enforcement has the resources needed to protect our communities. Proposition 497 is a practical, fiscally responsible solution that supports public safety while lowering property taxes for county residents.

I encourage a YES vote on Proposition 497.

Camp Verde Mayor, Marie Moore
Camp Verde, Arizona

When we talk about public safety, the stakes are deeply personal for me.
But as a Prescott Valley Council Member at the time of this, I also look at the hard facts:

Voting YES protects both our community and our local tax dollars. I know firsthand the heavy sacrifices behind the badge, which is why I refuse to let our public safety infrastructure erode. A modern, secure, and fully funded jail system is essential to hold offenders accountable and support our local law enforcement officers.

The facts show that our existing 1/4 cent sales tax is no longer sufficient. The Jail District faces future revenue needs of \$41.44 million per year due to population growth and rising inflation. Without this 1/4 cent increase, the County will be forced to drain \$8.88 million from the General Fund for legally required maintenance, plus an additional \$16.15 million just to cover basic operational costs.

This measured sales tax adjustment provides a transparent, long-term funding mechanism that takes effect July 1, 2027. It alleviates the financial burden on our county, preserving critical resources for local Prescott Valley priorities.

Leadership means making responsible decisions for our shared future. Protecting our neighborhoods means fully supporting our justice system. Vote YES for accountability, safety, and local fiscal responsibility.

Kymberli Lopez
Prescott Valley, Arizona

During my years serving as your Yavapai County Attorney, I saw firsthand who fills our county jail and why. Many are not Yavapai County residents, many are our own neighbors struggling with addiction or mental illness, and how we care for them behind those walls has everything to do with keeping our communities safe and maintaining the quality of life we have always enjoyed. That is why I am asking you to vote YES this November on the Jail District sales tax.

Here is what this measure does, in plain terms. It funds our jail through a modest sales tax instead of leaning harder on your property taxes. I have long believed in taxing the activity, not the address. The quarter-cent increase comes to a single penny on a four-dollar purchase, and it does not apply to groceries, prescriptions, or medical care. Just as important, it is paid by everyone who shops here — including the many who visit Prescott and the Verde Valley every year.

That point matters more than most people realize. In 2023, tourism already reduced the tax burden on the average Yavapai County household by roughly \$1,155. This measure simply asks our visitors to help carry the cost of the public safety they rely on while they are here, so the bill does not fall on a senior living on a fixed income or a young family buying their first home.

Rejecting this tax does not save money. It only shifts the burden onto services every one of us depends on, reducing Sheriff's patrols, public health, and emergency management. A YES vote is both fiscally conservative and pro-public-safety. It keeps public safety our county's first priority, and it does so fairly. I hope you will join me in voting YES.

Sheila Polk, Former Yavapai County Attorney
Prescott, Arizona

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

PROPOSITION No. 497

Arguments represent the opinion of the authors.

The claim that the county government is facing a revenue shortfall justifying a doubling of the current jail tax is a problem of the county's own making. The demand for a higher jail tax has been made before, in 2009 and again in 2014. Both times a higher tax was turned down decisively by the voters. Despite these decisions by voters, in 2019, the Board of Supervisors decided to build a second jail without voter approval or a funding source in place.

Proposition 497 is a form of "budget blackmail". Now that the jail is built, the county government claims they can't afford it. Bad government policy and ignoring the will of the voters should not be rewarded. Economic and population growth in Yavapai County are increasing tax collections under the current tax structure. County officials need to learn from DOGE and run a leaner and more efficient government.

Public safety is the first duty of government. But Yavapai County has a relatively low crime rate. We do not need to double the jail tax to keep us safe.

Christopher Campbell
Prescott, Arizona

At a time of high inflation and economic uncertainty, this is no time to raise taxes, particularly on our large retiree population living on fixed incomes or on families with children, many of whom are financially stressed. Higher prices have already created a revenue windfall for the government because higher priced goods mean higher sales taxes collections.

The county government's demand to double the current jail tax is unsupported by any crises in public safety. The county currently has surplus jail beds. Around a third of the inmates in county jails are not from Yavapai County. Why is the county government forcing local taxpayers to pay the jail costs of many low-level offenders who have no ties to the county?

The Board of Supervisors built a new jail in Prescott without voter approval or a secure source of funding. In fact, voters turned down a virtually identical request to double the jail tax in 2009 and 2014. The argument is always the same. The government wants more money. At a time when many taxpayers are tightening their belts, the government needs to do the same. Say NO to high taxes.

David Stringer
Prescott, Arizona

This argument is against Proposition No. 497 for the following reasons:

1. The Board of Supervisors (BoS) has not provided sufficient detail of the financial situation and needs of the Jail District for taxpayers to determine whether they would support the proposed tax increase.
2. The BoS has provided no description of the options they considered for expense reductions across the County budget or the Jail District prior to making their final tax increase recommendation.
3. The BoS has not provided sufficient explanation of why they believe a sales tax increase (over a 20-year duration) is preferable to other available forms of funding, such as increased property taxes. The reasons provided in the Proposition description for a sales tax are insufficient to justify yet another 20-year tax commitment on top of the existing commitment. The additional $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent is a fixed amount over a 20-year period which cannot be removed should circumstances warrant. Property taxes have the advantage of flexibility that a 20-year fixed sales tax does not provide.
4. The BoS has not explained how, should the sales tax increase be approved, it plans to adjust the 2027 planned 2.9% property tax increase downward to account for not needing General Fund payments for the Jail District.
5. The BoS provides no assurance that the tax funding requested will be sufficient to meet needs beyond the 2027 budget year. This shortfall scenario could occur again in 2-3 years. This is a managerial and structural expense issue that has no future plans proposed to deliver the service while minimizing burdens on the taxpayer. This amounts to a plan for ongoing tax increases and lack of oversight. In light of these and other unanswered questions about Proposition No. 497, I am against its approval.

Jerry Pittman
Prescott, Arizona

An additional $\frac{1}{4}$ % sales tax may not seem significant by itself. But when you consider the cumulative impact—adding the proposed special tax district increases to the already planned increases for Yavapai County and its cities and towns—the overall burden on taxpayers becomes unnecessarily heavy.

As a citizen, I've learned to budget responsibly and to live within my means, and I expect the Board of Supervisors to do the same. However, the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors has not provided sufficient information about the current financial situation or the Jail District's specific needs. Without clear and detailed financial data, taxpayers cannot make an informed decision about whether this increase is truly necessary or whether it may be directed toward priorities that are not clearly defined.

I also want a straightforward explanation for why the Board believes a sales tax increase lasting more than 20 years is preferable to other funding options, especially increased property taxes. The justification provided in the Proposition description is not enough to support adding another 20-year commitment on top of an existing one. In addition, the proposed $\frac{1}{4}$ % sales tax would be fixed for the entire 20-year period, meaning it cannot be removed even if conditions change. Property taxes offer more flexibility than a long-term fixed sales tax.

If Prop 497 is approved, does the BOS plan to adjust the planned 2.9% property tax increase for 2027 to account for reduced reliance on General Fund payments for the Jail District.

The Proposition provides no assurance that the requested funding will be sufficient beyond the 2027 budget year. Shortfalls could be ongoing in future budget cycles. This raises a serious concern about the issue is being treated as a sustainable management and budgeting problem—or another round of ongoing tax increases without meaningful oversight. Vote NO

Susan Garvey
Prescott, Arizona

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