



AEL Election Framework & Key Dates

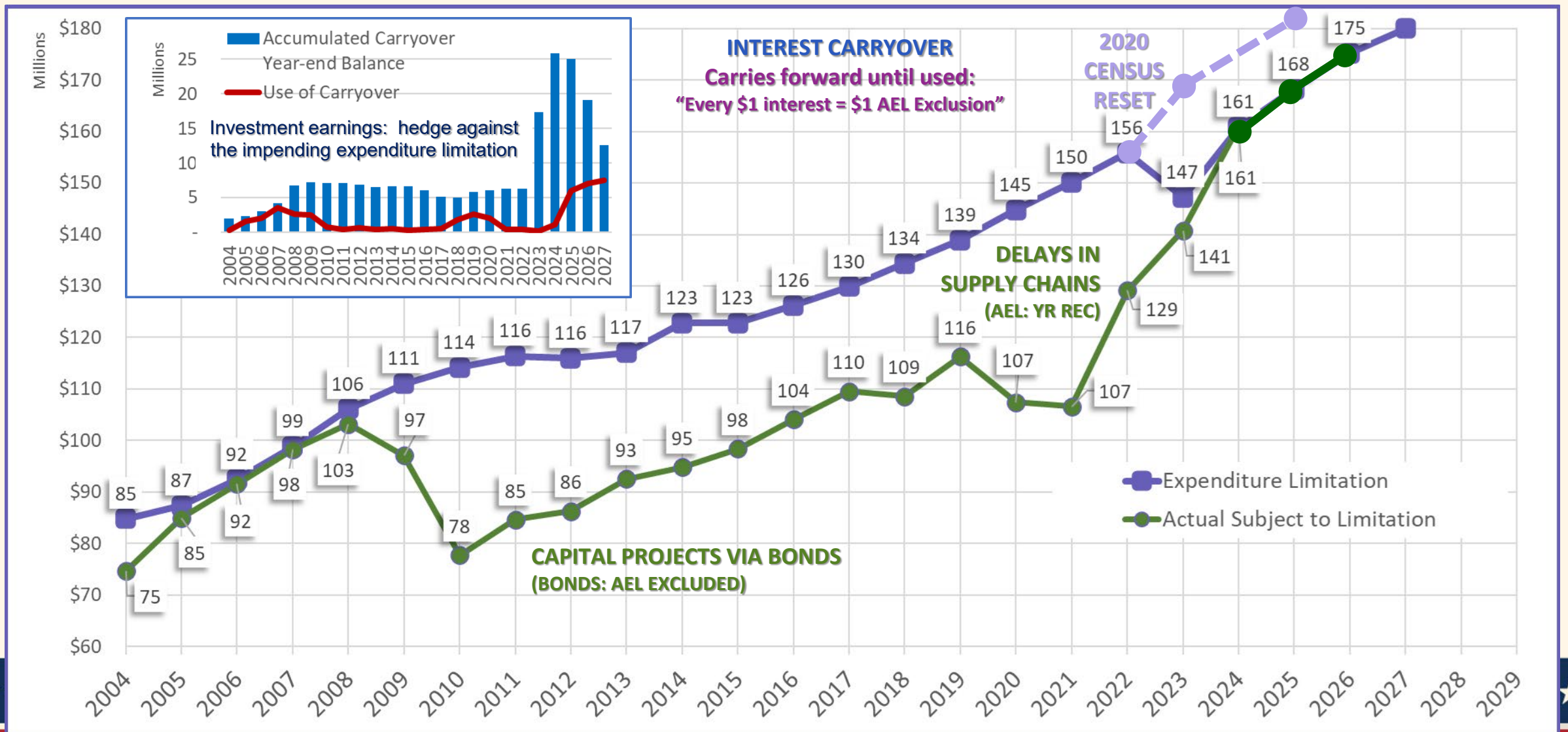
Council Retreat
April 2026

Where We Are

- Most City spending is subject to the limitation, with limited exemptions (e.g., debt)
- Service demands and costs are outpacing existing AEL
- Yuma is one of a small number of Arizona cities that has not adjusted its AEL
- Most Arizona cities have already adjusted their expenditure limitation
- Moving forward with a Permanent Base Adjustment
- Targeting November 2026 General Election
- **Focus: execution, statutory requirements, and communication**



City's Historical Limitation



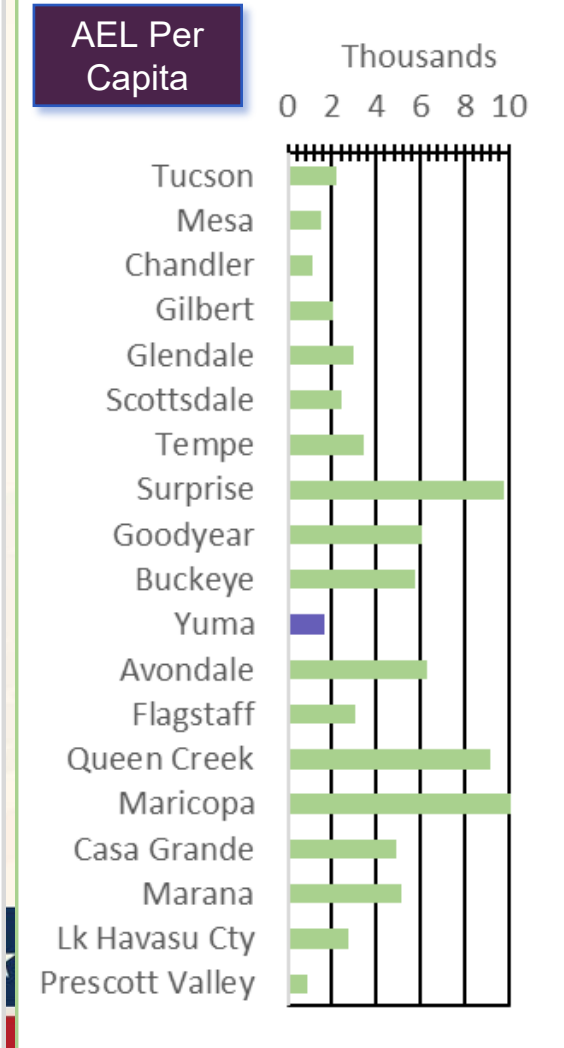
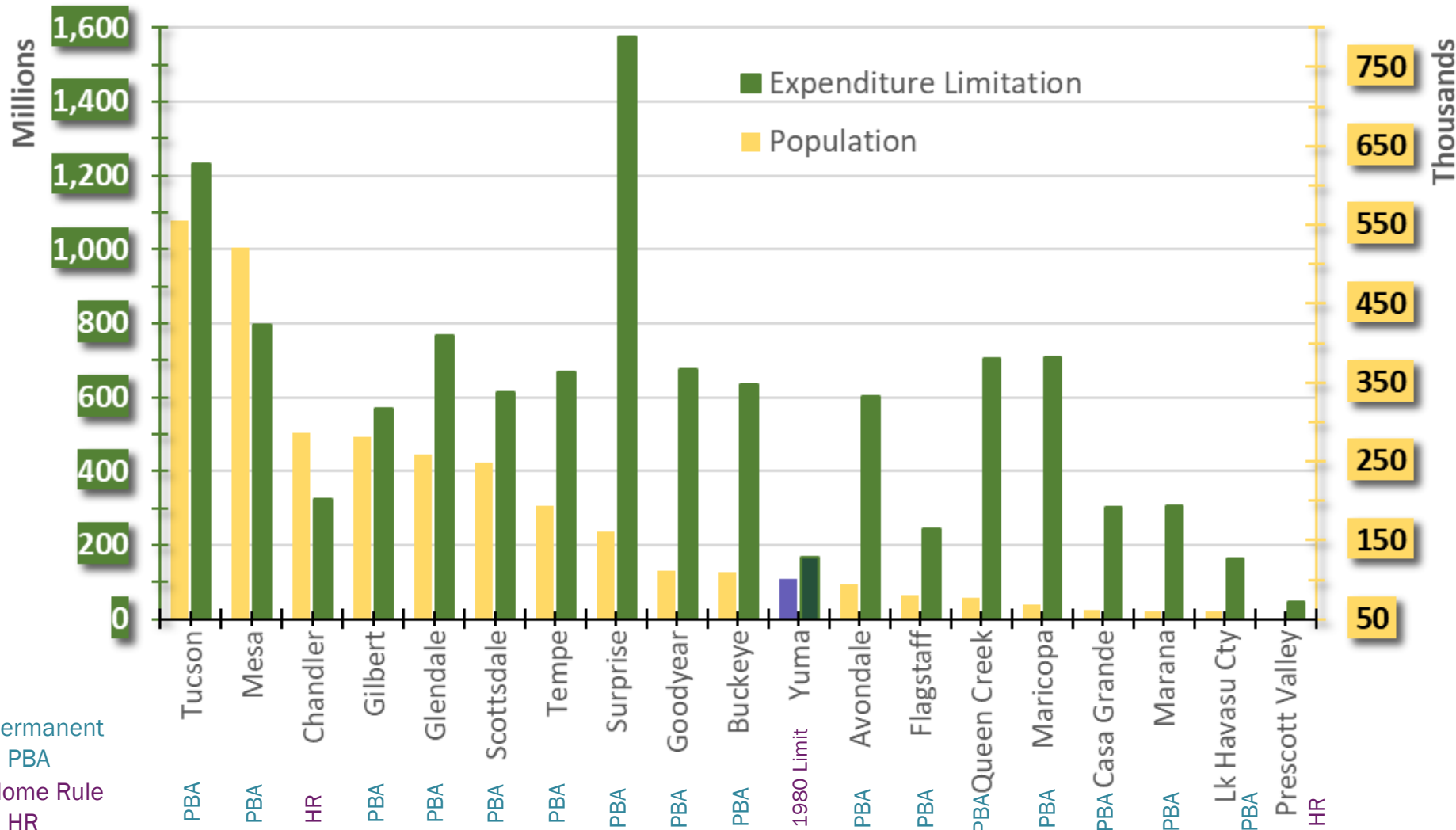
Statewide Context

- Most Arizona cities and towns have adjusted their state expenditure limitation
 - Permanent Base Adjustment- 46
 - Home Rule - 37
 - Holbrook approved a One-Time Override – 1
- These approaches align spending authority with current revenues and operations
- Recent elections show consistent voter approval (typically 60%–75%)
- Both small and large communities have taken action



Statewide Comparison

CITIES WITH POPULATION OVER 50,000; LESS PHOENIX



Permanent
= PBA
Home Rule
= HR

What the Process Requires

- Council approval to refer measure to voters – on or prior to **June 3/June 17 (Ordinance)**
- Auditor General review of required financial analyses
- Publicity pamphlet required for all voters
 - July 8 – ballot language due to County
 - August 5 – pro/con arguments due
- Clear separation between education (City) and advocacy (Community)



Important Dates

<p><u>May 7</u> *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you contract with the County Recorder for elections you must notify them of anticipated election <i>(NLT 180 days before Election Day)</i> • Check with County Recorder for their deadlines and adjust calendar 	<p><u>July 11</u> **</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council votes on sending the proposed Permanent Base Adjustment to the voters 	<p><u>July 21</u> *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the Detailed and Summary Analyses and the Summary Analysis Worksheet to Auditor General <i>(NLT 60 days before Election Day)</i> • OAG has 15 working days from the date received to respond 	<p><u>August 5</u> *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive the public's arguments <u>For or Against</u> the PBA for publicity pamphlet <i>(NLT 90 days before Election Day)</i> • Elected officials and employees may submit arguments for or against, provided no city funds or resources are used in the process
<p><u>August 10</u> **</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive <u>reviewed</u> Detailed and Summary Analyses and Summary Analysis Worksheet from Auditor General 	<p><u>August 14</u> **</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete preparation of draft publicity pamphlet • Send draft publicity pamphlet to OAG with sufficient time (15 working days) for review and comment prior to printing 	<p><u>September 3</u> **</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send publicity pamphlets to the printer after incorporating Auditor General comments • Mail to voters as soon as they are available 	<p><u>October 1</u> *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make early ballots available *** <i>(NLT 33 days before Election Day)</i>
<p><u>October 7</u> *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute early ballots*** <i>(NMT 27 days before Election Day)</i> • Mail publicity pamphlets before delivery of early ballots, or provide notice with early ballots stating when they will be mailed and where they may be accessed and viewed 	<p><u>October 23</u> *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory deadline to distribute publicity pamphlets <i>(NLT 10 days before Election Day)</i> 	<p><u>November 3, 2026</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GENERAL ELECTION DAY 	<p><u>November 23</u> *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canvass Vote <i>(NLT 6 days and NMT 20 days after Election Day)</i> • Inform Auditor General and Economic Estimates Commission of the result

* This is the latest date to comply with the applicable statutory deadline based on the General Election date of **November 3, 2026**.

** This is the **suggested** date to allow sufficient time to prepare required analyses and distribute the publicity pamphlet in time for early voting.
If you contract with your county for elections services, we recommend you check with them for their ballot preparation deadlines.

Education & Outreach

- Informational only (**Remember no advocacy**)
- Website + FAQ
- Community presentations & briefings
- Media + social (educational content)
- Consistent talking points about the facts



Community Advocacy

- Community members may form a PAC
- Councilmembers may advocate individually
 - ✓ **Must occur outside official City role**
 - ✓ **No use of City resources (personnel, email, equipment, etc.)**
 - ✓ **Careful use of private social media**



Key Milestones

Timeline driven by state statute and Auditor General requirements.

- **June:** Council action to refer measure
- **July:** Submit analyses to Auditor General (≥ 60 days prior)
- **August:** Public arguments due (≥ 90 days prior)
- **August–September:** Finalize publicity pamphlet
- **October:** Early ballots and pamphlet distribution
- **November 3, 2026:** Election Day



Deliverables

Required Deliverables

- Ordinance
- Summary and Financial Detailed Analyses (subject to Auditor General review)
- Publicity Pamphlet

Key Requirements

- Analyses must be internally consistent and accurate
- No revisions permitted after Auditor General approval



What Voters Will See

- Publicity pamphlet includes:
 - Ballot language
 - Financial summary
 - Purpose of adjustment
 - Arguments for and against

BALLOT FORMAT

Permanent Base Adjustment

Proposition #

Proposal submitted by City/Town Council of _____

Official Title

A resolution proposing a permanent adjustment to the State-imposed base expenditure limitation for the City/Town of _____.

Descriptive Title

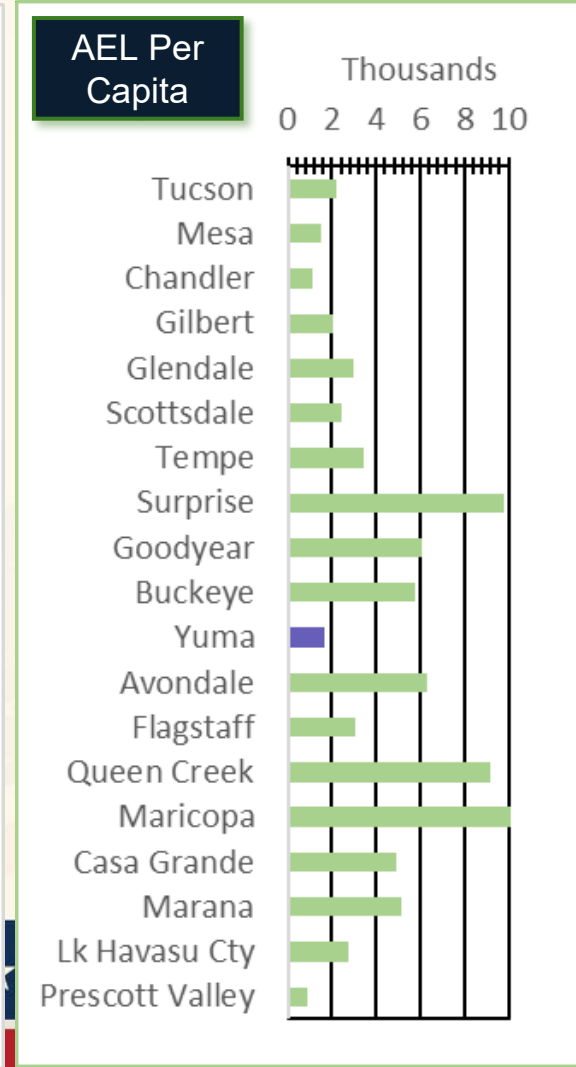
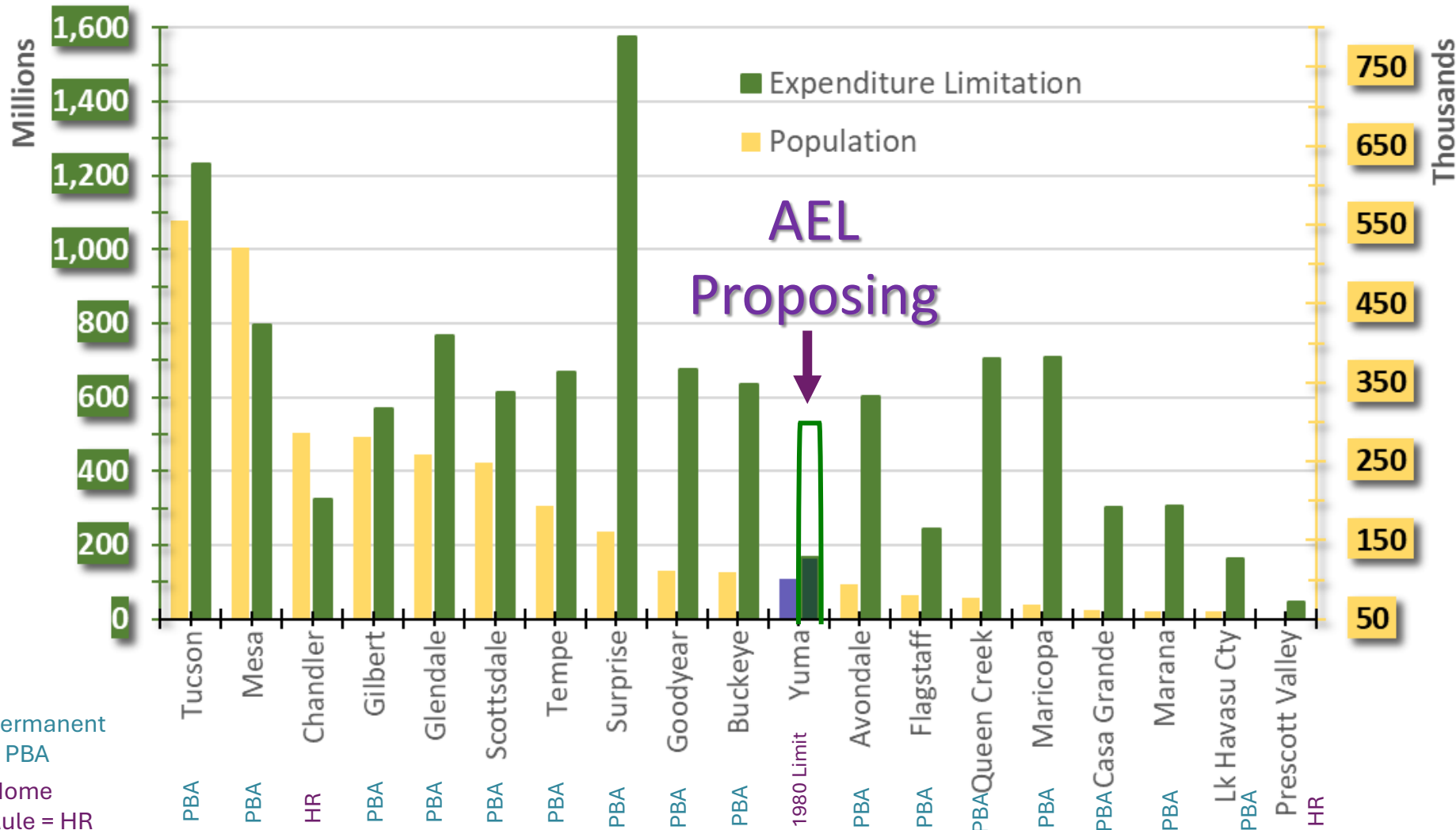
Pursuant to the Arizona State Constitution, the City/Town of _____ seeks voter approval to permanently adjust the expenditure base of the City/Town as determined by the Economic Estimates Commission. The City/Town seeks an adjustment of \$_____.

A "YES" vote shall have the effect of allowing the City/Town to adjust its base expenditure limit.	Proposition #
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
A "NO" vote shall have the effect of not allowing the City/Town to adjust its base expenditure limit.	Proposition #
	No <input type="checkbox"/>



Impact of \$30 Million Adjustment

CITIES WITH POPULATION OVER 50,000; LESS PHOENIX



Permanent = PBA
Home Rule = HR

What This Means Moving Forward

- If approved by voters in November 2026 change to AEL will take effect beginning FY 2028
- Updates the City's expenditure base used in the state formula
- Future limits continue to adjust with population and inflation
- Allows the City to fully use available revenues and resources
- Is not a new tax or new debt



Next Steps

- **Recommended approach is a permanent base adjustment**
 - If approved by the voters, the City's 1979-80 base expenditure limitation will be increased by \$30 million adjusted each future year for population and inflation growth since 1979-80.
- If approved, the City of Yuma's allowed expenditure limitation in FY 2028 will increase by **\$350,719,833, from \$183,115,083 to \$533,834,917.**

Next steps:

- Finalize analyses and ballot language
- Continue public information and outreach
- Ongoing updates to Council



Council Discussion

Questions

