



GREATER PHOENIX  
ECONOMIC COUNCIL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Greater Phoenix Economic Council releases feedback  
on Convening the Community summit**

**Phoenix (April 15, 2009)**– The Greater Phoenix Economic Council is releasing results of a questionnaire filled out by attendees of the unprecedented Convening the Community summit held April 9 at the Tempe Center for the Arts.

GPEC distributed the questionnaire in an effort to involve the community and hear ideas on how Arizona's deepening budget deficit should be solved. The state's fiscal year 2009 budget faced the largest deficit in the country and the deficit is expected to nearly double next year, reaching \$3 billion.

According to the unofficial results of 205 questionnaires:

- 75% of respondents would support a tax increase to balance the budget.
- 68% of respondents would support a temporary 1-cent sales tax increase.
- 46% oppose using spending cuts to balance the budget.
- 75% oppose further reductions in K-12 funding.
- 60% favor fiscal incentives for economic recovery.

The summit was designed to frame the issue, explore sensible solutions and eventually unite behind a plan that allows Arizona to stabilize the budget. It was called by GPEC, whose Board of Directors felt a duty to bring the problem to the community.

More than 800 people attended the two-hour event, which featured presentations by Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer, House Speaker Kirk Adams, and Senate President Bob Burns. It also included dialogue by Yuma Mayor Larry Nelson and Chandler Mayor Boyd Dunn about the importance of working together and the economic development role. A panel discussion on the budget impact to education included Arizona State University President Michael Crow, Maricopa Community Colleges Chancellor Rufus Glasper and Mesa Public Schools Superintendent Debra Duvall.

For more information on the survey and the Convening the Community summit, visit [www.gpec.org](http://www.gpec.org).

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**About Greater Phoenix Economic Council.** A true public/private partnership, GPEC is the regional economic development organization for Greater Phoenix. Working with its 18 member communities, Maricopa County and more than 140 private investors, GPEC attracts quality businesses to this dynamic region. By creating a high-performance economy through capital investments and jobs, Greater Phoenix companies enjoy a business climate where they can compete and thrive in today's global economy. Since 1989, GPEC has worked to achieve an economically sound and sustainable region. [www.gpec.org](http://www.gpec.org)