

Senate President Yarbrough strikes a blow for taxpayers in Senate Bill 1529

Congratulations President Yarbrough for protecting the Arizona taxpayers from a huge scam by rogue school districts who have forced Arizona taxpayers for years to pay for their “desegregation” agenda which really is just a game to get more money at the expense of taxpayers outside of their school district and not have the abusing school district pay for it. Senate Bill 1529 is a great move to remove the unfair and unjust subsidy to school districts intentionally spending dollars knowing the taxpayers of Arizona must pick up the tab and not requiring the abusive school districts to pay for their game of abuse of taxpayer dollars.

Here is what the Senate Bill did. “Arizona’s K-12 funding system is based on a complex formula that can produce inequities between different school districts. Certain inequities are so egregious that families statewide are forced to pick up the tab for a handful of schools. Abusing statewide tax policy to fund a local matter has long been the practice used by select school districts that bypass paying for desegregation costs locally by maxing out their local primary tax rate.

School districts with a court order from the U.S. Office for Civil Rights are permitted to levy a primary property tax rate to fund costs associated with desegregation within the school district. However, the Arizona Constitution caps local primary property tax rates at no more than one percent of a home’s full cash value to keep our state taxing system economically competitive. Nine of the state’s school districts authorized to levy a primary property tax rate for desegregation costs have already reached their one percent primary rate cap, meaning the state General Fund must pay the difference.

For FY 2019, this would have been a hit to the General Fund to the tune of \$19 million. Fortunately, this year’s budget contained a solution. This budget shifts levies for desegregation costs in school districts that have reached their one percent primary rate cap to each district’s secondary property tax. This ensures each district pays for their own local services, no district loses any funding, and provides relief to taxpayers throughout the state who have annually carried the burden of providing funding to these nine school districts.”